

## “Big Days” – Pr Jim Sprengle – First Sunday in Advent – November 28, 2021

- I. **Jeremiah 33:14** - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”
- II. **What is the biggest day of your life?**
  - a. That’s a tough question... because for some people it is a bad day, and for others, it is a great day.
  - b. Our minds begin to go back in time as we consider all the important things that happened, including many, many years ago... or even very recently.
    - i. Maybe the biggest day of your life has already happened, but you just aren’t far enough down the road to see it yet.
  - c. I gave some thought to this question in my own life...
    - i. Was it the day I married Michele (that’s right up there!)
    - ii. Was it the day my girls, Morgan and Alexa came into the world?
    - iii. Was it the day the Denver Broncos finally won the Superbowl?
    - iv. Maybe it was one of those big days like the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan, or the space shuttle Challenger exploding... or the day I watched a jet fly into the Twin Towers on 9/11.
    - v. The death of my mom as a teenager... or maybe the day I was ordained here at Ascension after years of school and preparation... or how about the birth of grandchildren?
  - d. As you can see, I could go through 100’s of days – and it would be extremely difficult to call a single day the “biggest day of my life.”
  - e. You may be dealing with a big day of trial and tribulation or a joy that is coming your way.
    - i. We just never know when something comes up...
      1. Loved ones (or maybe us) getting sick
      2. Death and loss
      3. Crime
      4. Or maybe something good happens –
        - a. Sports teams win the big game
        - b. Graduations and promotions
        - c. Marriages and births
  - f. Whether it’s good or bad – certain events will impact us much more than others... and can turn into big days.
- III. **This is the time of year we reflect on the days of our Lord Jesus...**
  - a. Not that we don’t focus on Him constantly, but I mean we especially reflect on His coming into the world and His return one day (I suppose that will be everyone’s “big day” when it happens...)
  - b. Now, I have been told... and it seems like good advice... that we should not spend too much time in the past or worry too much about the future because we mess up the present when we do that...

- i. It's true that spending all our time in the hurts or even wonderful memories of the past can cause us to get stuck rather than focus on the here and now...
  - 1. I once heard someone say, "It's ok to look back, just don't stare"
- ii. It's also true that if we constantly worry about things that are in the future, which is unknown and out of our control, we waste all that time on the here and now.
- c. However, there is a good kind of looking ahead – the kind that the Bible teaches us about.

#### IV. **Jeremiah the prophet is looking ahead to a Savior.**

- a. We've been learning a lot in our Bible study on 1 & 2 Samuel.
  - i. One of the highlights to this study is the rise of King David as God's chosen king.
    - 1. Of course David isn't a perfect human... He's not a Jesus by any means... but David is in the family tree of Jesus Christ.
    - 2. It was a big day when Israel decided to choose a king to lead them... and wasn't really the way God wanted them to go, but a future King would come by way of David's line.
- b. Jeremiah was a prophet during the reign of 5 different kings...the last ones.
  - i. Josiah who actually tried to make some helpful reforms and turn back to God, but also several others who turned the people away from God
  - ii. By the time it was over, the Babylonians would invade Jerusalem and destroy the temple Solomon (King David's son) had built.
    - 1. A couple of weeks ago I talked about the Holy of Holies... or the Most Holy Place in the temple as being the presence of God on earth for the Israelites... can you imagine what they were thinking?
      - a. Babylon destroys it all... and then drags 1000's of them away from their homes and forces them to live in a foreign country worshipping other gods.
      - b. I would think that each of those Israelites would call the destruction of God's temple and their exile a "big day"
- c. Yet, Jeremiah is sharing a promise and a hope.
  - i. Again, if we are looking into the future – it should not be fretting and worry – it should be faith and hope at the center of it all.
  - ii. Those Israelites had it bad... everything in their lives had turned upside down.
  - iii. But the promise is that God will raise up from the line of David a great Savior who will carry out justice and righteousness...
- d. Have you ever cut down a tree?
  - i. You haul off all this wood and then clean up... and then all that's left is a stump.

- ii. Give it enough time and you will see sprouts coming out of that stump... because the roots underneath are far from dead – and they are bringing nutrients and energy back to the growth area.
- iii. When all the kings looked to be cut down with only a dead stump sitting there...The Babylonians having ended any hope of kings ruling again, a righteous branch or sprout comes from what was all but lost.
- iv. Jeremiah is prophesying about this King from David's line who will come forth to lead perfectly.
- e. So when did that happen... when did the King come forth?
  - i. Almost 600 years later.
  - ii. In all that time, the God's people had faith in the promise of a Savior, had hope that a Savior would come.
  - iii. And indeed, Jesus, our Savior, came into the world in human flesh and blood.
  - iv. God Himself walked on the earth and a divine rescue mission was fulfilled in His work.

V. **Jeremiah speaks 600 years to the future, but we already know that story.**

- a. Jesus was born at just the right time and became the King and Messiah.
- b. All those Old Testament people looked forward to this Jesus – and we can now look back on His coming.
  - i. Again, we can spend as much time as we want considering the past when it comes to Jesus and His work on the cross.
  - ii. All of that justice and righteousness He showed while in the world as the perfect human being becomes ours.
    - 1. Notice verse 16, and it says that Jerusalem, or that means God's people, will be called, "the Lord is our righteousness."
      - a. This means that we will be right because the Lord makes us right.
      - b. God gave us His Son to die on the cross and rise again... so that He could then give us the benefits
        - i. We have no righteousness by ourselves, but we call God our righteousness because He gave it to us!
- c. We look back on all these things with joy in our hearts... because we know the full story of God's rescue plan!
- d. On the other hand, we don't know when Jesus is returning.
- e. The Gospel lessons from last week and this week are very similar, and they point forward to a day we will see the return of our King.
  - i. Again, we don't fret or worry – we simply look forward in faith and hope that Jesus is coming –
  - ii. And know this... that when Jesus comes again, the dead will rise up and all of us will be given a glorified body that we cannot imagine now.

- iii. The heavens and earth will be redeemed and restored completely – and we will praise God for gift of His righteousness...that became ours through Jesus Christ.
- f. Some days are definitely bigger than others... come Lord Jesus. Amen.