

Sunday, July 4, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Mark 6:1-13
“Your Bone and Flesh”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, have each participant share where “home” is and what gives it a sense of welcome.

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10. Context. Today’s reading forms the conclusion of the narrative of David’s rise from an undistinguished shepherd to King of Judah and Israel with his new capital at Jerusalem. In the story leading up to today’s reading, we learn that King Saul and his son Jonathan died in the ongoing conflict with the Philistines. The tribes divided into two groups: in the south David had become the King of Judah and established his main headquarters at Hebron, a town 13 miles to the south of Jerusalem. Hebron was associated with the tomb of Abraham and is still an important town today. In the north, Saul’s other son, Ishbaal, ruled. After several years, when Ishbaal and his principal military commander, Abner, had both been assassinated, the northern Israelite tribes, desperate for a leader, came to David at Hebron, and made a covenant with him to be their king as well. About that time, David captured the independent Jebusite town of Jerusalem and made it his capital over both Judah and Israel. This is the conclusion of the story that had started long before with God’s choosing David to be his anointed one when he was still a shepherd boy.

Mark 6:1-13. Context. Today’s reading comes after the Evangelist has described many of Jesus’ healings, and his calming of the storm on the sea, demonstrating the divine nature of his power and authority. But back home, folks had a hard time taking Jesus seriously. Jesus doesn’t waste much time with them and sends out his disciples to teach and heal throughout the region.

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Mark 6:1-13

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Mark 6:1-13 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- It appears what marked “home” for the tribes of Israel (in this passage) included a king, a covenant, and fortified cities. How might that have brought security and sense of belonging to the Israelites?

- Do you think Jesus was surprised when those in his hometown “took offense” (v. 3) at him? Do you think he was disappointed?
- Why do you think Jesus was unable to do “deeds of power” (v. 5) in his hometown?
- How does the sending out of the twelve disciples two-by-two (v. 7) connect with what happens in Jesus’ hometown? [Note: Jesus was rejected by his own. Just as the twelve tribes of Israel help constitute God’s people, so Jesus is signaling a renewed community who operate in his authority.]
- What are Jesus’ instructions to the disciples he sends out? How would this have created a sense of dependence on God’s provisions?
- How does Jesus send his disciples today? How do we depend on God for provisions today?
- How does “home,” biblically speaking, include a sense of call (or purpose) and sending? [Home is not merely a location, but about belonging. More specifically, we belong to the community of believers that are sent in mission and ministry to demonstrate and preach a life of forgiveness, repentance, and love.]

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Covenant-keeping God, your faithfulness in spite of our faithlessness brings a sense of awe and unworthiness. Yet, by our baptisms, you call us to be a people sent in ministry and mission to all those you love in and around us. Give us the eyes to see where you are calling us and who you are calling us to demonstrate your radical love. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.