

Sermon Notes:

God is a just judge.

Psalms 7

Kids, draw a picture of swords, bows, and fiery arrows to remind us that God is powerful to punish sin.

Write your name here: _____



Helping People Follow Jesus

Our Core Values:

Graciousness. Following Jesus is a journey in humility and grace. We want to humbly depend upon God’s grace and humbly extend God’s grace to others.

Togetherness. Following Jesus is not a solo journey. By following Jesus together, our differences help us follow him better.

Engagement. Following Jesus is a journey of prayerful, intentional community engagement. What matters most is people following Jesus and people learn to follow Jesus through relationships.

Reproducing. Following Jesus is a journey of reproducing gospel communities. We want to see this reproduction happen at every level – from life groups to starting other churches.

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost; July 24th 2016

Welcome to our church. If you have children, please pick up a writing board for them and a bulletin so they can draw during the message (there’s an idea on the back of the bulletin for their participation). Our service will be about an hour long. We value being together, so our children stay with us during the service.

If you need to leave the main room with a child, you are welcome to sit in the comfortable chairs by the entrance and listen in on the service.

We don’t “pass the plate” here at LEFC. If you want to give towards the ministry of this church, there is an offering box on the welcome table.

Pastor Tom Starkjohn. Contact info: Cell # 402.297.0672.

Do you get the LEFC Weekly email? This is for regular attenders and it’s the way to keep up with our church. Send an email to Pastor Tom at tomstarkjohn@gmail.com and say “sign me up for that email”.

*Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end,
and may you establish the righteous—
you who test the minds and hearts,
O righteous God!
My shield is with God,
who saves the upright in heart.
God is a righteous judge,
and a God who feels indignation every day.
(Psalm 7:9-11 ESV)*

Song of Praise to God. Christ the Lord is Risen Today. Hymn #163

Historical Statement of Faith: EFCA Statement of Faith #5

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Song Reminding us of the Gospel. Low in the Grave He Lay. Hymn #165

A life changed by the Gospel

Teaching from Psalms 7

A Song of Response: I Serve A Risen Savior. Hymn # 158

Life-giving Prayer (about 10 min)

1. Do you have any stories to share this week about worshiping God in the everyday stuff of life?
2. Try using the simple sentences below, filling in the blank. You could spend a bit of time on “glory”, people completing the sample sentence as many times as they want. Then move onto “Honor” and then “Thanks”.
 - Glory: God, it’s amazing that you _____.
 - Honor: God, I choose (or want or surrender) _____ to you.
 - Thanks: God, thank you for _____.

Life-giving Truth (about 45-55 min)

There are a lot of questions here. Your Life Group Coach will pick out a few below that are best suited for your Life Group to help process this week’s Life-giving Truth. Don’t try to answer every question – just think through a few together.

1. Did anyone think about last week’s Life-giving truth that *God disciplines the one he love*? Can you share a story about when you thought about it?
2. Read Psalms 7 out loud in your group. What are all the “requests” David makes in this prayer?
3. What do you notice, appreciate, find amazing, or find confusing about this passage?

4. What was one thing you learned from the sermon on Sunday?
5. What was one question you have from the sermon on Sunday?
6. Read Ps. 7:9. Does the truth that God is a righteous judge who “test the minds and hearts” bring you comfort or fear? Why?
7. Being falsely accused or persecuted is one of the hardest afflictions to bear. If there was something you had done, you could at least repent of it or bear it as a just punishment. But we live in a world where the righteous suffer. How might the Life-giving truth that “God is a just judge” help you persevere and not get bitter or despondent in the midst of false accusations?
8. Does the image of God who is “indignant every day” (Ps. 7:11) at impenitent sinners mess with your idea of God? If you had heard someone say this (and not read it in the Bible), would you think it was overstating the fact?
9. Read Hebrews 12:14. “Holiness” communicates two things in Scripture: It communicates a *separateness* and a *purity*. When we are made holy, we are separated unto God, for his use, for his pleasure. And it communicates a purity – the absence from sin and wickedness. So here the author says that we cannot “**see the Lord**” (read – “go to heaven to be with him”) if we are not striving for this holiness. As you think about “holiness”, what part of your life are you convicted of that you need to strive for holiness?
10. Read over these passages that talk about us “pleasing God”: Col. 1:10, Rom. 12:1, 1 Tim. 2:3, Heb. 13:16, 1 John 3:22. Consider this quote from Kevin Deyoung: “*If you think, ‘I have to please God with my obedience because he is my judge,’ you will undermine the good news of justification by faith alone. But you ought to reason this way: ‘I’ve been acquitted. The Lord is my righteousness. I am justified fully and adopted into the family of God for all eternity. I am so eager to please my Father and live for him.’*” How might viewing God as our Good Heavenly Father encourage us to please him?
11. Read Ps. 7:12-16. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “*The best day that ever dawns on a sinner brings a curse with it. Sinners may have many feast days, but no safe days. From the beginning of the year even to its ending, there is not an hour in which God’s oven is not hot, and burning in readiness for the wicked, who shall be as stubble.*” Why is this information important for the human race and our understanding of the gospel?

Life-giving Relationships (about 5-10 min)

Does anyone want healing prayer this week? Remember, this is praying for the heart of you, the person, not the circumstances you are going through or other people in your life. Is there anything churning in your heart that we can pray for?

Life-giving Impact (about 10 min)

1. Does anyone have any Pray & Watch stories from this week? Did you make a plan and follow through with getting together with anyone on your Pray & Watch list?
2. Get your Pray & Watch list. Let’s spend our last minute or two together praying over all these names together.