



# 20B LENT 2B - ONLINE LITURGY

Rocky relationships

## Abstract

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Mark 8:33

Jim de Jong  
jim@dejongs.id.au

**OLD TESTAMENT***Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16*

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

**PSALM***Psalms 22:23–31*

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;  
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

<sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the LORD will praise him—  
may your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
will bow down before him,

<sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the LORD  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;  
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—  
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord.

<sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet unborn:

He has done it!

## NEW TESTAMENT

*Romans 4:13–25*

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

<sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

## GOSPEL

*Option A*

*Mark 8:31–38*

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." <sup>i</sup>

## 20B Lent 2B - Online Liturgy

### Rocky relationships

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 | LENT | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | YEAR B

Old Testament    Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16  
 Psalm            Psalm 22:23–31  
 New Testament    Romans 4:13–25  
 Gospel            Mark 8:31–38 or Mark 9:2–9

Jesus is telling his disciples a difficult truth about what will happen to him in his death and resurrection, but Peter finds it hard to take, and argues with Jesus. Jesus sets out that God's ways are different from human nature: we must forget about our earthly desires and follow Jesus.

Sometimes it can be hard to accept a difficult truth. We might wonder if there have been times when we have had to receive a difficult truth. How did we react? How might we have responded if we had been in Peter's shoes?

**This week we explore** daring to be open without fear of rejection.

	<b>Pre-Service</b>
	<b>Introit</b> P&W 428/SOF 105      Fear not      Pringle
	<b>Greeting</b>  May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all  <b>and also with us</b>
	<b>We Gather</b> Through the psalmist, God says, 'Be still, and know that I am God!' Let us come into God's presence and still our hearts. Let us come together to listen to God. Let us be still, and know that God is indeed God.  <i>Let us pray</i> Holy God, we come from our busy lives. We often forget that you walk with us. As we gather now, help us to be more aware of who you are. Give us the courage to admit when we don't understand, so that we might grow more like you in all we do. Amen.
	<b>Hymn/song</b>

	<p>Be still and know that I am God Iona/ATO 413/CH 533 The Summons Bell</p>
	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Openly come to revere the Lord, to praise and worship him. Let our hearts rejoice with everlasting joy. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Readings</b> Mark 8:31-38</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord</p> <p><b>Thanks be to God</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song/video</b> Breathe on me, breath of God When I survey the wondrous cross TIS 342 AHB 258</p>
	<p><b>We say Sorry</b></p> <p>Words of greeting on the lips; words of love on the lips – the example you gave us: forgive us when we fail to act as you do, Lord.</p> <p>Words of retaliation, insincerity and malice on our lips: forgive us when we act towards others in this way, Lord.</p> <p>Overwhelmed by complex relationships and rocky paths: forgive us for not setting our minds on you and your ways.</p> <p>Fear of rejection and wary of being our true selves: forgive us and help us to give of ourselves as you give.</p> <p>Forgive us, Lord, for our failure to trust you; for not allowing you to be in the driving seat.</p> <p>Lord of covenant relationship, lead us and help us to live your way.</p> <p>In your name we pray. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Words of Assurance</b></p> <p>Jesus was handed over to be crucified because of our sins. He died and rose again to make us right with God. Through him we are forgiven.</p> <p><b>Thanks be to God</b> <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/Song</b> For the beauty of the earth Will you Come and follow me</p>

**Response****Rocky relationships**

Mark 8.31-38 Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

Let's start with a story.

A Russian comedian goes shopping in America.

He sees a range of incredible products he has never seen.

Powdered milk you just add water, and you get milk.

Powdered orange juice you just add water, and you get orange juice.

And then I saw baby powder,

and he thought to himself, "What a country!"

As funny as this may seem, many of us make these assumptions about becoming a Christian

that people change instantly when they are saved.

Whatever you call this transformation,

many of us expect some quick fix to sin.

That when someone gives his or her life to Christ,

there is an immediate, miraculous change in habits, attitudes, and

character. We go to church as if we are going to the grocery store: Powdered

Christian. Just add water and disciples are born not made.

Unfortunately,

there is no such instant powder and disciples of Jesus Christ are not instantly born.

We bring our own history, our own humanity, our own vulnerability with us.

We don't like being hurt, or excluded, or isolated?

We like to be liked.

Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked him. Why?

Peter believes the kingdom of God can be obtained instantly by force.

Peter has a worldly view of the Kingdom and Jesus is speaking about a heavenly kingdom.

Two people looking at the same set of information

they seem to disagree with each other's interpretation

as ridiculous as it may be for us with hindsight

for Peter to be disagreeing with the Messiah

but history tells us that they can move on from that point

with out destroying themselves, each other, or their relationship.

Have you ever look around at a group of your colleagues and wondered to yourself

Do I look as old as they do?

There was an older gentleman who was sitting in the reception room of a dentist's office.

It was his first visit to see this dentist.

While waiting for his appointment, he noticed a certificate hanging on a wall

which bore the dentist's full name.

Suddenly, he remembered that a slender, nice looking young woman with that name

had been in his high school class some 50 years ago.

As soon as he saw the dentist, however, he quickly discarded the thought. This grey-haired lady with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been his classmate.

After the appointment, he mentioned a certain school and asked if she had gone to that school.

"I sure did," she replied.

"What year" he asked.

"In 1956. Why do you ask?" she said

"You were in my class!" he exclaimed.

She squinted her eyes and looked at him really closely and then asked,

"What subject did you teach?" (1)

[We laugh to keep from crying, don't we?]

I love the story of Abraham and Sarah – he's 100 and she's 90  
and they have just heard the news that they are going to become parents!

Can you imagine them,

probably bent over with arthritis,

hard of seeing and hearing,

his hair already thinning if not gone altogether (just like me). No wonder they laughed.

I can imagine them holding each other up as they leant on their walking frames  
and laughed until the tears rolled down their wrinkled faces.

Do we hear the echoes across the centuries of that laughter?

How do we cope though when we are not the ones laughing?

How do we cope when we are in fact the object of that laughter?

How do we cope when laughter turns to ridicule or rejection?

How do we cope with disagreements among ourselves?

For lots of reasons, each of us reacts differently when people disagree with us  
or when groups disagree with one another.

Some can become quite feisty like hedgehogs and enjoy the argument;  
others can become silent like tortoises and hide in their shells

They become isolated and excluded.

What is the way that Christians should respond?

Is the best way to be peaceful and calm, never to disagree?

Maybe when the things we're disagreeing about aren't very important.

But what if the thing we're disagreeing about are important or about truth and justice?

Jesus and Peter are an example

of how open disagreement can lead to a place of understanding one another  
and God's better way.

Jesus is trying to teach the disciples

that the kind of Messiah that they have in mind isn't quite right.

They still seem to think that Jesus is going to be powerful and conquer the world.

Jesus wants to show them that he's going to appear to do the opposite:

he will be rejected, suffer and die.

	<p>But think carefully about the scene. Perhaps you know people, especially leaders, who you'd be frightened to disagree with because they might reject you!</p> <p>Jesus seems to have created an atmosphere among his friends where they weren't afraid. Peter is quite confident in his contradiction of Jesus. And Jesus is comfortable to disagree with Peter – very strongly. But is Peter kicked out of the group? Is Peter rejected? Far from it</p> <p>in fact, just a few verses further in chapter 9, we read that Jesus chooses Peter with James and John for a special experience.</p> <p>If we are to grow as people of faith, If we are going to encourage each other as a faith community we need to be able to create an environment where we feel safe enough to disagree but know no one will not be rejected. Can we do that?</p> <p>The words Satan get behind me, may sound harsh and non-Jesus like but they are spoken by the same person that last week we heard God say, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. And they are spoken to a friend and supporter without fear of breaking the relationship up. each knowing that hearing one another is a basis to equality in relationships between individuals.</p> <p>Amen</p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b> From heaven you came, helpless babe God has spoken to his people, hallelujah                      TIS 636 I danced in the morning TIS 242 AHB 183</p>
	<p><b>Offering</b></p>
	<p><b>Notices</b></p>
	<p><b>Prayers for all people</b> We pray for followers of Jesus Christ; for those who are imprisoned for their faith, for those who serve as missionaries, for teachers of the faith...</p> <p>We pray for those who deny themselves to serve others; for those who work in hospitals and prisons, for those who are carers,</p>



	<p>for those who serve their communities as volunteers...</p> <p>We pray for those who carry the weight of a cross; for the homeless and unemployed, for those who are ill or bereaved, for those who struggle with mental health...</p> <p>We pray for ourselves, as we follow Christ; for strength to overcome our struggles and failures, for our fears and worries, for those we love, and those who love us... Amen.</p>
	<b>Lord's Prayer</b>
	<b>Hymn/song</b> When I survey the wondrous cross
	<p><b>We are sent out</b> <i>Think of your diary/phonocard.</i></p> <p>Everything I am Lord, and everything I do. Help us to be always more like you.</p> <p>Teach us to be yours, Lord, show us when we're wrong. Help us to be always more like you.</p> <p>You accepted all, Lord, help everyone to find the way. Help us to be always more like you. <b>Amen.</b></p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace <b>Amen</b></p>
	<b>Benediction</b>
	<b>Thank you</b>

<sup>i</sup> [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.