

## **Bible Study Reflections for Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Mothers' Day)**

### ***John 14:1-14 (Raymond Brown's translation)***

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith, then, in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father's house; otherwise I would have warned you. I am going off to prepare a place for you, I am coming back to take you along with me, so that where I am, you also may be. And you know the way to where I am going. ... I am the way and the truth and the life: no one comes to the Father except through me.*

#### **Brown's notes:**

“heart” in the OT and the synoptic Gospels tends to be the “decision-making” organ. Within John's Gospel it is more likely to take on an “affective role”.

“in my Father's house” could also be translated as “with my Father”.

### ***Acts 7:55-60 (Johannes Munck's translation) ... the stoning of Stephen***

*When they heard this, they become very angry and gritted their teeth with rage. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed toward heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said. “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” But they shrieked aloud and covered their ears and the all rushed at him. They drove him out of the city and stoned him.*

#### **Munck's notes:**

This is the only place in the NT, outside of the Gospels, where “Son of man” is used as a title for Jesus.

### ***1 Peter 2:2-10 (John H, Elliott's translation) ... election and rejection***

*Continuing to come to him, a living stone, “rejected” by humans but elect, honored in God's sight, you, yourselves, also as living stones, are being built up; a house of the Spirit to be a holy “priestly community” to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... Once you “Not-people,” but now “God's-people”; you “Not-shown-mercy,” but now “Those-shown-mercy.”*

***Psalm 31 (Mitchell Dahood's translation)***

*In you, O Yahweh have I trusted, let me not be humiliated, O Eternal One!  
In your fidelity rescue me! Incline your ear to me, speedily deliver me*

...

*But in you have I trusted, O Yahweh, I said, "You are my God; my life-stages are  
in your hand." Rescue me from the hand of my foes , and from my pursuers.*

**Dahood's Notes**

A personal lament. This psalm divides into three sections. Verses 1-12 include the cries for help and the description of the illness which put the psalmist at death's door; vss 12-20 describe the mental languish brought on by being abandoned by his friends and slandered by his foes; and vss 20-25 are a hymn of thanksgiving for rescue from both death and slander.

*(vss 17-25 are not included in the lectionary, but are pertinent to understanding this prayer-psalm.)*

Tony's Questions ...

What is our understanding of the affirmation, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me!"?

What is it about the stoning of Stephen that leads Saul, shortly after this episode, "on the road to Damascus" where he converts from radicalized Judaism to even more radicalized Christianity?

How do we, as "living stones" offer spiritual sacrifices? Particularly in the context of our current epidemic, how do we understand the phrase, "Those shown mercy"?

Given our current pandemic, how might the words of the Psalmist resonate in our modern world? What, if any, is the interplay between lament and anger, and where might our faith help us to encompass anger and still remain "faithful"?