

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Peace is the best journey; happiness the best destination. —Anon.

People generally like to live close to family. Not too close, but close. But what if you lived in Neah Bay, Washington, and had grandchildren living in Key West, Florida? According to some students of geography, these two cities are 3,644 away from each other, the furthest distance between cities in the contiguous 48 states! That's a long way to travel to see one's family. A trip from San Diego to Lubec, Maine, would cover 3,340 miles!

Jesus brings up the question of distance in today's Bible reading when he makes a reference to the kingdom of God.

How far are you from the kingdom of God? On the face of it, the question suggests that getting to the kingdom of God is a matter of distance. This implies that a journey or trip is involved.

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus says to a highly religious fellow known as a "scribe" that "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

I wonder if the scribe wondered, "Well, how close am I?"

When we were kids, and we took trips with our parents in the Ford or Chevy to one of the national parks, we asked this question a lot, didn't we? "How much farther, dad?" This is the same thing as asking, "Are we getting close?"

We wanted to know the distance. We wanted to know how far we were from our destination.

The scribe in the Bible reading was close to the kingdom, but he was not there yet. I wonder why not? Perhaps this was Jesus' way of saying to the educated scribe, "Hey, my friend, you get it."

According to Jesus, here's how you can tell that you're very close to the kingdom of God: If you love God with your "all" and your neighbor as yourself, and if you understand that this is more important than any religious ritualistic practices, then you are close to the kingdom of God.

Does this describe you?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Help me this week, Lord Jesus, to love you with all my heart, and to love others as I love myself. Amen.

*Blessings on All Hallow's Eve!
Love & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4-6

Monday: Nehemiah 10-13

Tuesday: Micah 1-4

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-9

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10-13

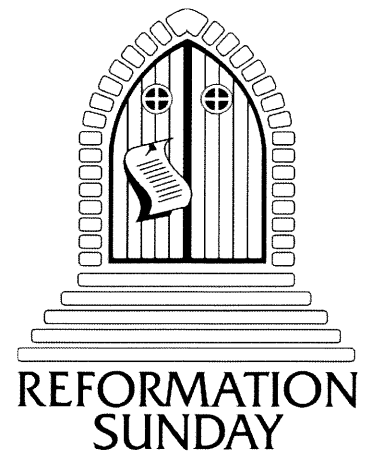
Friday: Acts 20-22

Saturday: Psalms 125-128

THE BOOK OF ACTS WORD SEARCH

The words in the list below are from stories in the book of Acts. Find the words forward, backward or diagonally in either direction.

H	N	A	I	P	O	I	H	T	E	E	Q	S	D	L
O	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	A	Z	A	G	N
L	P	G	I	Z	T	A	G	E	J	S	M	C	B	E
Y	R	E	C	R	O	S	I	P	Y	A	Q	R	S	H
S	A	N	H	E	D	R	I	N	S	B	V	O	A	P
P	Y	T	H	G	I	L	A	C	A	A	V	D	Z	E
I	E	I	C	T	I	G	U	S	E	N	O	T	S	T
R	R	L	J	H	O	S	K	A	I	R	A	M	A	S
I	W	E	P	G	A	E	P	L	Y	A	O	H	U	C
T	E	S	U	I	T	R	R	X	A	B	P	S	L	R
B	N	E	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	K	E	P	O	S
C	C	H	U	R	C	H	S	O	K	J	T	A	O	H
K	E	T	M	T	T	G	O	R	T	H	E	U	I	J
N	O	M	I	S	G	C	N	N	P	B	R	L	J	U



Verse to Remember

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.

—Psalm 127:1

Ananias	baptize	Barnabas	basket	chariot	church	Damascus	Dorcas
Ethiopian	Gaza	Gentiles	Holy Spirit	Jerusalem	Jesus	Joppa	light
Paul	Peter	Philip	prayer	prison	Samaria	Sanhedrin	Saul
Simon	sorcery	Stephen	stones	Straight	synagogue		

Kid Jokes: Here are a few riddles to tell your grandchildren or a little kid you might run into:

Question: What do whales like to chew? Answer: blubber gum! Question: How do rabbits travel?

Answer: by hareplane! Question: I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I? Answer: a

coin. Question: What two things can you never eat for breakfast? Answer: lunch and dinner.

Question: Which word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Answer: the word "short."

Question: I can fill a room, but I take up no space. What am I? Answer: light.