

**UNLESS the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...** Psalm 127:1a

### Worship:

#### **Tabernacle Worship Service**

**Every Sunday Evening**

St. John's Parish House

75 East Main St. South Pottstown 5:30 pm

### Home Churches:

#### **Hanover St. Home Church**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

#### **Bright Hope Community Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

### Announcements:

Pray for the Cox & Twaddell families at the loss of Kim. These family are heartbroken through this terrible loss. Pray for God's grace as they look for answers in this tragedy.

Please pray for Gary Allan and his family at the loss of their grandchild this week. Kim was in her 1<sup>st</sup> trimester and lost the baby last Sunday in the hospital. Keep them in your prayers.

### Your Prayer Notes:

#### **The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

2009/2010 Season is beginning to ramp up and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage to beginning. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

#### **Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:**

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; remember.

Please, also keep all of us in prayer; as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

### Next Week's Scriptures:

**September 13, 2009: Proper 19 (Year B)**

**psalm 19, proverbs 1.20-33, mark 8.27-38 & james 3.1-12**

Get in touch with us at:

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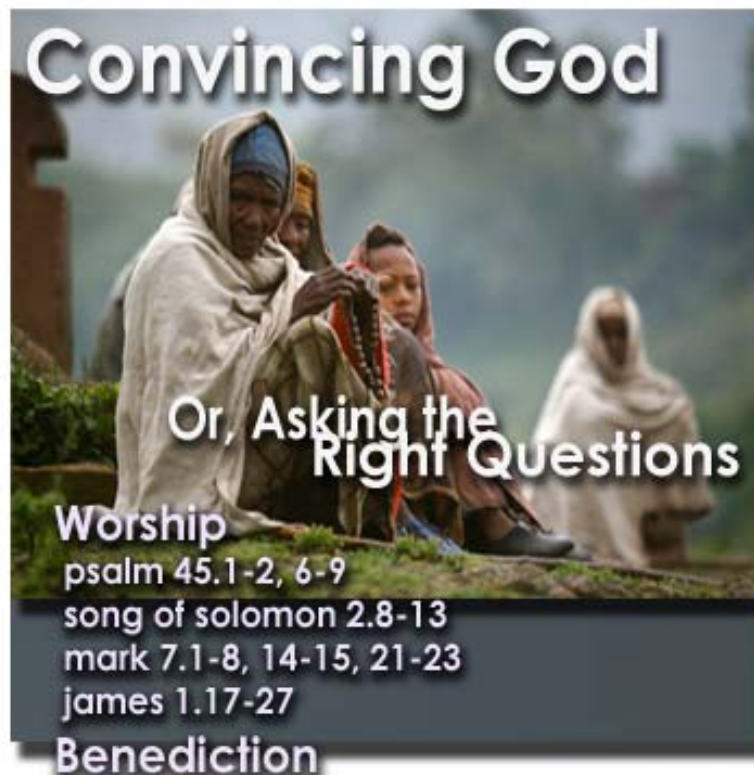
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**still waters**  
home churches & worship center

September 6 - 2009



**Convincing God**

Or, Asking the Right Questions

**Worship**  
psalm 45.1-2, 6-9  
song of solomon 2.8-13  
mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
james 1.17-27

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**  
75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465  
Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, St. John's Parish House

[Service]

Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Dead Faith”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 125

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Focus Film ::

“Forgetful Isolation”

The Scripture ~

## Convincing God Or, asking the Right Questions

...but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." *Mark 7. 25—28*

This week's Lectionary:  
psalm 125, proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23,  
mark 7.24-37, & james 2.1-17

Focus Film ::

“We Need Laborers”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
≠ protected from “those people”

≠ what *must* do?

≠ playing favorites

### Meditation:

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? " *James 2. 1—4*

### Reflection:

In James and Mark, the church and its members are instructed not to show partiality concerning which neighbors to love or which ethnicities to defend or economic classes to offer healing – so it is vital for churches to be at the forefront of anti-racism efforts.

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 125

[Worship]

1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore. 3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong. 4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. 5 But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

### Consider:

[Words]

Do not let class distinction enter into your faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord (James 2:1). The lectionary readings this week contain a litany of directions and leave us in no doubt about our behavior toward the poor and oppressed. The selection of Proverbs concludes with the command, "Do not despoil the weak...and do not oppress the poor...for the Lord God takes up their cause and [rather more uncomfortably] extorts the life of their extortioners" (Proverbs 22:22-23). The psalm, one which reflects people's trust in time of suffering, also calls on God to "do good to those who are good....But the crooked, the twisted, turn them away with evildoers" (Psalm 125:4-5).

The letter of James is uncompromising on behalf of the poor. He pictures a courtroom dialogue between the wealthy and the poor and exposes the tendency of us all to judge by appearances, offering preference to the well-dressed. However, poverty is not only measured by appearance. There is the more insidious and deeply ingrained impact of culture, which leads even the most enlightened to the borders of sin.

Jesus is accosted and addressed by a Gentile woman, a culturally unacceptable thing to do. Reacting like any Jewish male, Jesus uses words that shock us: "It is not fair," he says, "to take the children's food and throw it to little dogs" (Mark 7:27). Having gotten further than most others would—a reply from a Jewish man—the woman pushes her luck by responding, "But little dogs...eat the scraps from the children." Jesus receives a riposte that he cannot gainsay.

The woman, who has been discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, and class, "teaches" Jesus something about inclusivity in God's order. Her persuasiveness in argument forced him to recognize his privileged position and to re-evaluate it. This is an example of what the writer to the Hebrews meant when he said of Jesus that he "learned his obedience, son though he was, through his sufferings" (Hebrews 5:8). We too are invited to recognize our privilege, to face our prejudice, to observe and change our exclusiveness into inclusiveness.




### Reflection and Action

What privileges do you have in your life? List some examples. Recall those who do not share your privileges. Make another list. How will you seek to obey James' instruction not to let class (or any other) distinctions enter into your faith in Jesus Christ?

[Scripture]

## James 2. 11-17

11 For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.



still waters home church studies  
**Daily Lectionary Readings**  
 for Ordinary Calendar Year B [Worship]

These readings are adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, Daily Readings for Year One.

Sun Aug 30	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 114, 115	1 Kng 8:22-40	1 Tim 4:7b-16	John 8:47-59
Mon P17 Aug 31	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	2 Ch 6:32-7:7	Jam 2:1-13	Mark 14:53-65
Tue Sept 1	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	1 Kng 8:65-9:9	Jam 2:14-26	Mark 14:66-72
Wed Sept 2	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	1 Kng 9:24-10:13	Jam 3:1-12	Mark 15:1-11
Thur Sept 3	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	1 Kng 11:1-13	Jam 3:13-4:12	Mark 15:12-21
Fri Sept 4	am: 31 pm: 35	1 Kng 11:26-43	Jam 4:13-5:6	Mark 15:22-32
Sat Sept 5	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	1 Kng 12:1-20	Jam 5:7-12, 19-20	Mark 15:33-39
Sun Sept 6	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	1 Kng 12:21-33	Acts 4:18-31	John 10:31-42
Mon P18 Sept 7	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	1 Kng 13:1-10	Phil 1:1-11	Mark 15:40-47
Tue Sept 8	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	1 Kng 16:23-34	Phil 1:12-30	Mark 16:1-20
Wed Sept 9	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	1 Kng 17:1-24	Phil 2:1-11	Matt 2:1-12
Thur Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 66, 67	1 Kng 18:1-19	Phil 2:12-30	Matt 2:13-23
Fri Sept 11	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	1 Kng 18:20-40	Phil 3:1-16	Matt 3:1-12
Sat Sept 12	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	1 Kng 18:41-19:8	Phil 3:17-4:7	Matt 3:13-17
Sun Sept 13	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	1 Kng 19:8-21	Acts 5:34-42	John 11:45-57
Mon P19 Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	1 Kng 21:1-16	1 Cor 1:1-19	Matt 4:1-11
Tue Sept 15	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	1 Kng 21:17-29	1 Cor 1:20-31	Matt 4:12-17
Wed Sept 16	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	1 Kng 22:1-28	1 Cor 2:1-13	Matt 4:18-25
Thur Sept 17	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	1 Kng 22:29-45	1 Cor 2:14-3:15	Matt 5:1-10
Fri Sept 18	am: 69 pm: 73	2 Kng 1:2-17	1 Cor 3:16-23	Matt 5:11-16
Sat Sept 19	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	2 Kng 2:1-18	1 Cor 4:1-7	Matt 5:17-20

Sun Sept 20	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	2 Kng 4:8-37	Acts 9:10-31	Luke 3:7-18
Mon P20 Sept 21	am: 80 pm: 77, 19	2 Kng 5:1-19	1 Cor 4:8-21	Matt 5:21-26
Tue Sept 22	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	2 Kng 5:19-27	1 Cor 5:1-8	Matt 5:27-37
Wed Sept 23	am: 119:97-120 pm: 81, 82	2 Kng 6:1-23	1 Cor 5:9-6:8	Matt 5:38-48
Thur Sept 24	am: 83 pm: 85, 86	2 Kng 9:1-16	1 Cor 6:12-20	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Fri Sept 25	am: 88 pm: 91, 92	2 Kng 9:17-37	1 Cor 7:1-9	Matt 6:7-15
Sat Sept 26	am: 87, 90 pm: 136	2 Kng 11:1-20a	1 Cor 7:10-24	Matt 6:19-24
Sun Sept 27	am: 66, 67 pm: 19, 46	2 Kng 17:1-18	Acts 9:36-43	Luke 5:1-11
Mon P21 Sept 28	am: 89:1-18 pm: 89:19-52	2 Kng 17:24-41	1 Cor 7:25-31	Matt 6:25-34
Tue Sept 29	am: 97, 99, 100 pm: 94, 95	2 Ch 29:1-3, 30:1-27	1 Cor 7:32-40	Matt 7:1-12
Wed Sept 30	am: 101, 109 pm: 119:121-144	2 Kng 18:9-25	1 Cor 8:1-13	Matt 7:13-21
Thur Oct 1	am: 105:1-22 pm: 105:23-45	2 Kng 18:28-37	1 Cor 9:1-15	Matt 7:22-29
Fri Oct 2	am: 102 pm: 107:1-32	2 Kng 19:1-20	1 Cor 9:16-27	Matt 8:1-17
Sat Oct 3	am: 107:33-43, 108 pm: 33	2 Kng 19:21-36	1 Cor 10:1-13	Matt 8:18-27

your talking points notes...