

prayer of desperation – Verse(s) _____, 3) The account of the deliverance – Verse(s) _____, and 4) The offering of thanks – Verse(s) _____.

Have you ever felt like a prisoner, isolated from others? A person can be a prisoner of an addiction, an unhealthy relationship or a situation or environment that is toxic. When have you been a prisoner? Write your reflections here.

Thursday, July 15

Read Psalm 107:17-22. This is an account where the distress is described as “sick people.” It should be mentioned that the NRSV's use of the word "sick" in verse 17 is an editorial change. The original Hebrew says, "Some were fools ..." Retaining the literal translation makes quite a difference in meaning, because the affliction that results is a consequence of the people's own behavior, not some contagion. Some might describe this distress as “sin-sick.” Match up the verses with the pattern: 1) The nature of the distress – Verse(s) _____, 2) The prayer of desperation – Verse(s) _____, 3) The account of the deliverance – Verse(s) _____, and 4) The offering of thanks – Verse(s) _____.

Describe a time when you've been sick because of your behavior? How did God deliver you? How did you receive the gift of redemption and forgiveness? Give thanks to God and write your account of redemption here.

Friday, July 16

Read Psalm 107:23-32. This final story of redemption involves rough seas and shipwreck. Look for the four-fold pattern of the previous stories. The story is about people just living their lives and being confronted by a storm. Have you experienced stormy times in your life? How did you emerge from that challenge? Remember that this great Psalm begins and ends with the assurance of God's steadfast love. Give God thanks and praise!

Message Notes – July 11, 2021

*Life Changing Decisions – What's Your Story?**

- I. Matt Malone describes himself as a "for-profit archaeologist." He's aware that regular archaeologists spend a lot of their time examining ancient _____.
 - A. They can tell a great deal about the values of a civilization by digging through _____ heaps.
 1. In America, our dumpsters runneth over with nearly new but serviceable merchandise, destined only for _____.
 2. What does that say about our _____?
 - B. Our Scriptures depict God as being something of a dumpster-diver, as a deity who can _____ trash into treasure.
 1. As the author of Psalm 107 puts it, God is a *goel*, or _____.
 2. Think of the people of Israel; they cry out to the Lord in their _____, and the Lord answers them.
- II. Psalm 107 is a poignant _____ of redemption: It recounts the story of redemption over and over again.
 - A. The _____ of the psalm, verses 4-32 is four parallel accounts of redemption.
 1. In verses 4-9, it's a group of _____, lost in the desert, who find their way out.
 2. Verses 10-16 celebrate _____ set free.
 3. In verses 17-22, _____ people are healed.
 4. Finally, verses 23-32 sing of sailors who are rescued from a _____.
 - B. Each of these redemption stories has the same fourfold _____:
 1. First, a description of the _____.
 2. Second, a _____ of desperation.
 3. Third, an account of the _____.

*Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

4. Finally, an expression of _____.
- III. Psalm 107 is a Psalm of _____. It draws its unique power from concrete accounts of suffering and redemption.
- A. We don't use personal testimony as often as we could in our _____.
 - B. We shy away from it, because salvation stories can be _____ and unpleasant
 - C. Pastor Bob Kaylor wrote: "Christian proclamation should never go too long without dipping into the _____ of testimony."
 - D. This is something the apostle _____ knew instinctively.
 - E. _____ began his ministry by declaring that he is about to bring about the redemption of God's people.
- IV. Don't believe for a moment that your _____ isn't important to share or to be heard by others.
- A. If it's from the heart, it has the potential of _____ the heart of another person.
 - B. We all have a story of redemption that is meaningful and beautiful; recognizing our _____ humanity and God's _____ grace and love.
 - C. Your story – your testimony – is worth _____ and being heard.
 - D. "Let the _____ of the Lord say so, those he _____ from trouble."

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, July 12

Yesterday's Message began with the illustration of Pastor Jack having his bicycle restored and therefore redeemed. There was also mention of Matt Malone, a dumpster diver from Austin,

Texas, who estimated that he could make a quarter of a million dollars a year, if he were a full-time dumpster diving! Our trash heaps has tons of fully serviceable items from vacuum cleaners, to electronics to bikes! What does this say about our values? Could it be that our throw away (rather than restore and redeem) attitude has spilled over into how we view other people? Are there people whom you consider beyond restoration? Meditate on these questions and ask God to guide us toward God's efforts to restore and redeem all humanity! Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, July 13

Read Psalm 107:1-9. Psalm 107 provides a litany of testimony of the Israelites; they find themselves in distress and God delivers and redeems them from that distress. The heart of the psalm, verses 4-9, is four parallel accounts of redemption. In verses 4-9 we learn about a group of wanderers, lost in the desert, who find their way out.

There is a four-fold pattern in each of these stories: First, a description of the nature of the distress (Verses 4 and 5 in the first story). Second, there is a prayer of desperation (Verse 6). Third is an account of the deliverance (Verse 7). Finally, the Israelites offer an expression of thanks (Verse 8 and 9). Have you ever experienced a time of "wandering" in your life; separated from others? Did you pray for deliverance, crying out to God? How were you delivered? Recall that time in your life and give thanks for how God redeemed and restored you!

Wednesday, July 14

Read Psalm 107:10-16. This story of redemption involves those who are prisoners, not just literally prisoners in jail, but those who are trapped in misery and isolation. Can you find the four-fold pattern of this story of redemption? Match up the verses with the pattern: 1) The nature of the distress – Verse(s) _____, 2) The