

Readings from Matthew chapter 13—May 23rd-29th, 2021

31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” **33** Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, **35** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

Sunday: **How big is a mustard seed? Pray** that the Lord would give love, grace and unity in the body at Shelter RPC (Edmonton, Alberta). **Give thanks** for Ian Gillies, a ministerial student from Scotland, as he graduates from RP Theological Seminary; **pray** that he would be called to a place of service.

Monday: **How else does Jesus use a reference to a mustard seed? See Luke 17:6. Please pray** for the RPCNA’s church planters and their wives; many labor far away from other congregations, and many have faced great struggles. **Pray** for Rev. Peter Loughridge, as he preaches through John at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC.

Tuesday: **The birds of the air receive food, rest, shade and shelter from a tree. In what ways do believers receive these things as a result of being in the church? Ask that God** would make known the new pastor of Los Angeles (Calif.) RPC and that God would bring a man committed to the Word of God, the Confession of the church, the ordinary means of grace, and warm, loving shepherding. **Pray** that the Lord would send at least two new people to Stranraer (Scotland) RPC by year’s end.

Wednesday: **What is leaven? Pray** for Marion (Ind.) RPC to grow in 2021 and to minister to those who need Christ and hope. **Pray** for Airdrie (Scotland) RPC during the time of its not having a pastor; **pray** that one would soon be installed.

Thursday: **Why is the kingdom of heaven like leaven? Pray** for the Home Mission Board’s church planting to be more evangelistic; **pray** that these endeavors would bring in converts, that this branch of the kingdom would expand with conversions and not only membership transfer. **Pray** that there would be many men called into the ministry in the RP Church of Ireland, and that there would be many students enrolled at Reformed Theological College in Northern Ireland. **Pray** for the Open Day at McKinnon (Australia) RPC this weekend.

Friday: **Why did Jesus speak in parables? Praise God and give Him thanks** for providing Columbus (Ind.) RPC with its new pastor, Joel Hart. **Pray** for Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, that there would be genuine love and unity within it.

Saturday: **In v. 35, Jesus quotes Psalm 78:2; who is the prophet to whom He was referring? Pray** that more men, women, and children from the needy area around Atlanta (Ga.) RPC would come seeking the Lord. **Pray** for the RP Synod,

slated to meet June 14th-17th in Marion, Indiana.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord’s Day

May 23, 2021

Meeting every week at

574 Western Avenue

(corner of Western and Walnut Street)

Atlanta, Georgia

Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

franksmith76@gmail.com

<https://atlanta-rpc.org>
(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship
of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Galatians 1:3-5

*The Invocation

*Psalm 65A

“Praise Waits for Thee in Zion!”

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 1

*Psalm 119T

“I Cried with My Heart; O Jehovah, Give Ear”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 19B

“Jehovah’s Perfect Law Restores the Soul Again”

Scripture Text

Revelation 1:1-8

The Sermon

“Introduction to the Apocalypse”

*Prayer

*Psalm 119M

“O How I Love Thy Law”

*Benediction

*Psalm 72C [stanzas 11-12]

“Now Blessed Be Our God Alone”

* Congregation will please stand.

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”—*Matthew 28:19-20.*

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead? A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment? A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment? A. The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

Revelation 1:1-3 “Introduction to the Apocalypse”

Theme: Jesus Christ introduces His great picture book.

Four approaches: Futurist; Preterist; Idealist; Historicist

Views of the Millennium: premillennial; amillennial; postmillennial

I. The Revelation of Christ

A. Christ as author of revelation; *apokalupsis*—an unveiling

B. “which God gave to Him”—the Father’s commissioning of Him

C. “to show . . . those things which must come to pass quickly”

1. To show—a book of word-pictures, like a photo album

2. To His servants/slaves; engaged in warfare vs. Satan’s kingdom

3. Those things which must come to pass quickly

II. The Signification

A. Christ “signified” the book—*semeion* (as in semaphore)

B. Mediation by an angel [he’s not particularly identified]

1. Revelation has often been mediated thru angels: Dan. 8:16; 9:21f; 10:10ff; Zech. 1:9, 19; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Rev. 22:6

2. Angels have a prominent role in Scripture and in this book

a. Gen. 19:1; 22:11; 28:12; Jud. 13:13; Jesus' birth (Mt. 1:20; Lk. 1:11f; 1:26f; 2:9f); resurrection (Mt. 28:5f); ascension (Acts 1:10f)

b. Rev. 5:2, 11; 7:11, 8:2-3, 6; 10:1; 11:1; 14:15-19; 17:7; 18:1; 19:17; 20:1; 21:9

C. The use of John—humbly identified; He “testified” to the Word

III. The Blessing

A. The blessing of eternal life; also, hopeful expectation

B. Blessing in connection with the Word

Application

A. Are you eager to hear the promises of Christ and rejoice in them?

B. Are you willing to heed the warnings?