

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: ALent2x2017

Text: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, **our ancestor** according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For **what does the scripture say?** “Abraham believed God, and it was **reckoned** to him as righteousness.” 4 **Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.** 5 But to **one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly**, such **faith** is **reckoned** as righteousness.

6 So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.”

9 Is this blessedness, then, pronounced only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We say, “Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.” 10 How then was it reckoned to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them, 12 and likewise the ancestor of the circumcised who are not only circumcised but who also follow the example of the faith that our ancestor Abraham had before he was circumcised.

13 For the **promise** that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through **the righteousness of faith**. 14 **If** it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, **[then]** faith is null and the promise is void. 15 **For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.** 16 **For this reason** it depends on faith, in order that the **promise** may rest on **grace** and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 **as it is written**, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word - I/S, Math - I, People - I/S, Self - S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	It is written; what does Scripture say.... Paul’s appeal to history	This is a bit like discovering something you had always understood to be	This misheard lyric from Elton John’s <i>Philadelphia Freedom</i> - while entirely understandable for the

	and tradition and identity that comes through the word	<p>accurate is in fact not so when one goes back to look at the source. In a way it's like misheard song lyrics. Or getting a quote from a play or movie just a bit wrong. Or really reading the constitution or the ten commandments or any other authoritative document to discover you've been living your life adjacent to the meaning of the original.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke T. Johnson, in <i>Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation</i> (p. 317), writes that Romans takes the form of a Hellenistic rhetorical style known as scholastic diatribe. The diatribe uses a variety of devices including rhetorical questions, questions with an expected short answer "By no means", hyperbole, vice lists, and (to our point) historical exemplars, among others. 	<p>way it sounds - completely changes the meaning of the song.</p> <p>So does this one!</p> <p>Mick Jagger would probably even sing this one, he seems to have a good sense of humor.</p>
Eye - Visual/Spatial	<p>"Paul's writing in these verses [...] has the breathless quality of a sketch made in a hurry." ~Sarah Henrich, WP</p>	<p>Sketches are rough or unfinished drawings that assist the artist. The kernel or germ of an idea that can be filled out later.</p> <p>Paul's idea of grace and justification is quickly drawn and will be filled out by disciples as they live it.</p>	Some line sketches
Math - Logical/Mathematical	Paul is attempting to get his readers to "think differently"	This illustration comes from Lucy Lind Hogan at WP.	

	<p>about the law and grace.</p> <p>Logizomai = reckon, decide, conclude, think, compute, calculate, count over, treat accordingly</p> <p>used 8 times in this passage (including the part not in the lectionary)</p> <p>Paul truly wants the Romans to reconsider, rethink, consider anew what grace is and how it affects one's life.</p>	<p>“If one was raised in North America one learned, as a child, to cross the street looking first to the left, and then to the right. Why? In North America cars, by law, drive on the right hand side of the road. So, when we travel to the British Isles, something that is second nature to us -- crossing, can become dangerous and life threatening. When stepping off the curb we must first look to our right lest we are hit by oncoming traffic. In London they recognize this is a major problem for foreign visitors. If you look down while standing at an intersection you will often see stenciled, in large white letters, the admonition "LOOK RIGHT."</p> <p>The old way of thinking about Abraham, Paul tells us, is to think that Abraham was honored and praised by God by his works. Paul wanted people to look in a different direction. Look not to the works of the law, but look to faith.”</p>	
Body - Kinesthetic			
Musical			
Natural	Promise x3	God's promise is God's promise and does not depend on anything we do in order for it to come into fruition. It's like the changing seasons; they	

		will happen regardless of what we do and whether we are ready for them.	
People - Interpersonal	Our ancestor	My cousin Mike and I almost got into a fist fight once as to whose grandfather our common grandfather was. I argued he was mine as did Mike, neither one of us understanding the nature of the relationship of our mothers who are sisters. We were pretty young. -- MWD	Understanding that Abraham is the father of three monotheistic world faiths, how does this affect our arguments about who his "real" descendents are?
Self - Intrapersonal	this faithful God <i>justifies the ungodly</i> , not waiting for them to shape up first.		We have ancestors according to the flesh, and we have spiritual ancestors, like Abraham and other mentors in the faith. Who are some of your spiritual ancestors? What did they do that was so significant that you think of them thus? Have you told them how they have helped you on your spiritual journey?