

**Worship Devotional**  
**Pentecost 13 2020**  
**Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28**

**The Heartbreak**

*“From that time on, Jesus began to show them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”*

**Matthew 16:21**

Have you ever heard the sound of a heart breaking? Do you remember what it sounds like? Maybe it was at the loss of a love one, a mother, a father, even a child. Or maybe it was when a relationship had changed, a love was lost, a divorce, a friendship turned bad. Or maybe it was the announcement of that the cancer was back, or the coronavirus had struck a family member.

Have you ever felt your heart break? Do you remember how it felt?

I think that we hear that sound and feel that breaking of a heart in this week’s gospel reading. It might be hard to detect at first, but if you listen closely, you may hear it, or even feel its stress of the fracture in a relationship, and of the uncertain future.

It happens just outside of Caesarea Philippi, a village 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is walking with his disciples when he asks them what the people are saying about him. “Who do you say that I am?” Peter responds by declaring Jesus the Messiah, Son of the Living God.

And then just as quickly as Peter has made this declaration. Jesus says, “*The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, be killed...*” There... Did you hear it? It is the sound of the human heart breaking. First comes the confusion, and then the distress that cause’s Peter’s heart to tremble. Son of Man must undergo great suffering – **crack** – and be rejected – **crack** – and be killed – **crack!**

This gospel passage is difficult because it causes us to deeply consider who Jesus is...and what Jesus is all about for you and me. In the places of our own cracks, of our confusions, and disappointments, Jesus seems to come close to our hearts by moving into our lives. He is not afraid to even disrupt our lives and move us to ponder more deeply our relationship to our God. Jesus beckons us to open our hearts desires to those things that cause us to fear.

Jesus comes to invite us to move through those disappointments, and to see the other side, the hopeful side, where Jesus will offer that more abundant life, one that offers us a stronger pulse in the values of grace and mercy...a beat that resounds with a love of God, stronger than sin, fear and death.

To a world weary with this time of pandemic, to men, women and children who are trying to make sense of their lives. Jesus comes to break open our hearts, to advocate for the ways of justice, and end to hate and cruelty. Jesus comes to replace fear with courage, and the defeat of death with resurrection life.

Can you hear the heart of God in your own heart?  
Can you hear the sound of God’s love in Christ Jesus?  
Listen!

