

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 8 verse 18 through chapter 9 verse 1. You can find this reading on page 636 of your pew Bible.**

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;  
my heart is sick within me.

Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people  
from the length and breadth of the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?”

“Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images  
and with their foreign idols?”

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.”

For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded;  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people  
not been restored?

Oh that my head were waters,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**The Word of the Lord.**  
***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 60.**

Leader: O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;

**People: you have been angry; oh, restore us.**

Leader: You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;

**People: repair its breaches, for it totters.**

Leader: You have made your people see hard things;

**People: you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.**

Leader: You have set up a banner for those who fear you,  
that they may flee to it from the bow.

**People: That your beloved ones may be delivered,  
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he

answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**  
***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***