Sermon Outline
Burton Memorial United Methodist Church
"Raging Bulls, Roaring Lions, and Wild Dogs, Oh My!!!"
(Sermon II in "Psalm 22 & the Crucifixion of Jesus")
March 16, 2025

Scripture

Psalm 22:7-8, 12-13, and 16
Mark 15:16-20 and 29-32

Core Idea and purpose

Core ideas from earlier sermons in the series:

- (03/09/2025) Like Jesus, we can choose to identify with the suffering servant in Psalm 22 by standing up for love, righteousness, and justice.

Core Idea: How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.

Purpose: To encourage people to react to their with unconditional love.

The Sermon

While slowly dying on the cross, Jesus summoned enough strength to say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" We learned, last Sunday, that Jesus was referring to the 22nd Psalm because these are the first words of that psalm. Jesus was stating that Psalm 22 is about him. He is the suffering person of Psalm 22.

When we read about Jesus' crucifixion, we see echoes of Psalm 22. I will read portions of Mark's account of the crucifixion and then read portions of Psalm 22. As I read, you can silently read with me. The words are on the screen. After this reading, we'll see some of the parallels between Jesus' crucifixion and Psalm 22.

So, here we go. Mark 15:16-20 and 29-32. The soldiers … put a purple robe on him [Jesus], then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him…. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Now we read Psalm 22:7-8, 12-13, and 16. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. [8] "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." [Does this sound similar to the way they mocked Jesus?] … Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. [13] Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me… Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

Who else had his hands and feet pierced? Jesus, right? This Psalm is clearly talking about Jesus, the One who is fully human and fully God.

Psalm 22, however, is not talking about Jesus as God – other passages do that. It is talking about Jesus as a human. Like all people, he had to deal with his own raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs. When we use Psalm 22 to contemplate Jesus' gruesome torture and death, we can understand the animal imagery in Psalm 22 like this:

- Raging bulls = Caiphas & the Sanhedrin
- Roaring lions = Pontus Pilate & Roman authorities
- Wild dogs = Roman soldiers

We all have our own raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs. Right now, if you are an immigrant in the U.S., I.C.E. might be your raging bulls, the government might be your roaring lions, and prejudicial people might be your wild dogs. But we don't have to be members of a persecuted community to have raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives. We all have them in one form or another.

Right now, close your eyes and think of anyone who might currently be a raging bull, roaring lion, or wild dog in your life. This is anyone who, for whatever reason, may want to hurt you. You may not have any now but you've had them in the past and will likely have some in the future.

How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives. Let me say this again: How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives. Jesus reacted to his raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs with unconditional love. While hanging on the cross, he also said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) This is the example for us to follow. Jesus also teaches to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We are to pray for the Lord to take care of our raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs and then continue to love everyone unconditionally.

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I'd like to introduce you to a little Indonesian girl named Karunia. Here's a picture of her with her mom and dad.

She was born with apert syndrome. This caused her bones to fuse together too early in the womb. Her face was deformed and her fingers fused together to create stubs at the end of her arms. She had to endure many surgeries.

At school some cruel kids called her names and bullied her, but she learned to deal with these raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs with love. When kids called her names and mocked her because of her deformities she would respond by saying she is God's gift and not a creation of any man.

I have a video about her. It is a Compassion International video. I am not showing you this video to try to get you to sponsor a child through Compassion International. (But, if you do, that's great. Compassion Internation is a great ministry.) I'm showing you this video so you can see how Karunia deals with the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in her life.

[Show video]

How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.

Karunia is Christlike... Are we Christlike?

Let's pray.

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I. While slowly dying on the cross, Jesus summoned enough strength to say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"
   A. We learned, last Sunday, that Jesus was referring to the 22nd Psalm because these are the first words of that psalm.
   B. Jesus was stating that Psalm 22 is about him.
      - He is the suffering person of Psalm 22.

II. When we read about Jesus' crucifixion, we see echoes of Psalm 22.
   A. I will read portions of Mark's account of the crucifixion and then read portions of Psalm 22.
      - As I read, you can silently read with me.
      - The words are on the screen.
      - After this reading, we'll see some of the parallels between Jesus' crucifixion and Psalm 22.
   B. So, here we go. Mark 15:16-20 and 29-32. The soldiers … put a purple robe on him [Jesus], then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him…. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

C. Now we read Psalm 22:7-8, 12-13, and 16. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. [8] "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." [Does this sound similar to the way they mocked Jesus?] … Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. [13] Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me… Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

D. Who else had his hands and feet pierced?
   - Jesus, right?
   - This Psalm is clearly talking about Jesus, the One who is fully human and fully God.

E. Psalm 22, however, is not talking about Jesus as God.
   - It is talking about Jesus as a human.
   - Like all people, he had to deal with his own raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs.
   - When we use Psalm 22 to contemplate Jesus' gruesome torture and death, we can understand the animal imagery in Psalm 22 like this:
     - Raging bulls = Caiphas & the Sanhedrin
     - Roaring lions = Pontus Pilate & Roman authorities
     - Wild dogs = Roman soldiers

III. We all have our own raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs.

A. Right now, if you are an immigrant in the U.S.,
   - I.C.E. might be your raging bulls,
   - the government might be your roaring lions,
   - and prejudicial people might be your wild dogs.

B. But we don't have to be members of a persecuted community to have raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.
   - We all have them in one form or another.

C. How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.
    - Let me say this again: How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.
    - Jesus reacted to his raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs with unconditional love.
        - While hanging on the cross, he also said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
        - This is the example for us to follow.

IV. I'd like to introduce you to a little Indonesian girl named Karunia. Here's a picture of her with her mom and dad.

A. She was born with apert syndrome.
    - This caused her bones to fuse together too early in the womb.
    - Her face was deformed and her fingers fused together to create stubs at the end of her arms.
    - She had to endure many surgeries.

B. At school some cruel kids called her names and bullied her but she learned to deal with these raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs with love.
    - When kids called her names and mocked her because of her deformities she would respond by saying she is God's gift and not a creation of any man.

C. I have a video about her.
    - It is a Compassion International video.
    - I am not showing you this video to try to get you to sponsor a child through Compassion International. (But, if you do, that's great. Compassion Internation is a great ministry.)

- I'm showing you this video so you can see how Karunia deals with the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in her life.

[Show video]

V. How Christlike we are is largely shown by how we react to the raging bulls, roaring lions, and wild dogs in our lives.
   A. Karunia is Christlike...
   B. Are we Christlike?

Let's pray.

<u>863 398 4431 Lanita battles</u>

1. Email coming
2. Ask for judicial warrant signed by a local judge (search or arrest warrnt) if arrest warrant it needs particular individuals name. This is different from an administrative warrant.

205 521 8389 – Law Office

205 218 5038 – Keith Covington

Athanas, Bill – 205 532 3006