Former Prophet
2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest
from all his enemies around him,

2 the king said to the prophet Nathan,
'See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent.'

3 Nathan said to the king,
'Go, do all that you have in mind;
for the Lord is with you.'

4 But that same night
the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord:

Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

6 I have not lived in a house
since the day
I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt
to this day,
but I have been moving about in a tent
and a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about
among all the people of Israel,
did I ever speak a word
with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel,
saying,
'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts:
I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep
to be prince over my people Israel;
9 and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.

10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel
and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place,
and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more,
as formerly,
11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you
that the Lord will make you a house.
12 When your days are fulfilled
and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
13 He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. 15 *But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.* 16 *Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me;* * *your throne shall be established for ever.* 17 *In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.*

Epistle
Ephesians 2:11-22

11 So then,
remember
that at one time you Gentiles by birth,
called 'the uncircumcision'
by those who are called 'the circumcision'
—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—

12 remember
that you were at that time
without Christ,
being aliens
from the commonwealth of Israel,
and strangers
to the covenants of promise,
having no hope
and without God in the world.

13 But now
in Christ Jesus
you who once were far off
have been brought near
by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace;
in his flesh
he has made both groups into one
and has broken down the dividing wall,
that is,
the hostility between us.

15 He has abolished the law
with its commandments and ordinances,
so that he might create in himself
one new humanity in place of the two,
thus making peace,

16 and might reconcile
both groups to God
in one body through the cross,
thus putting to death that hostility through it.

17 So he came
and proclaimed peace
to you who were far off
and peace
to those who were near;

18 for through him
both of us
have access
in one Spirit
to the Father.

19 So then
you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God,
20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

21 In him
the whole structure
is joined together
and grows
into a holy temple
in the Lord;

22 in whom
you also
are built together spiritually
into a dwelling-place for God.

Gospel
Mark 6:30-34 *(35-52)* ***53-56***

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.

31 He said to them,
'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves
and rest a while.'
For many were coming and going,
and they had no leisure even to eat.

32 And they went away in the boat
to a deserted place
by themselves.

33 Now many saw them going
and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns
and arrived ahead of them.

34 As he went ashore,
he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep
without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.

35 When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said,
'This is a deserted place,
and the hour is now very late;
36 send them away
so that they may go
into the surrounding country and villages
and buy something for themselves to eat.'

37 But he answered them,
'You give them something to eat.'

They said to him,
'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread,
and give it to them to eat?'

38 And he said to them,
'How many loaves have you? Go and see.'
When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.'

39 Then he ordered them
to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass.
40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.
41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves,
and gave them to his disciples to set before the people;
and he divided the two fish among them all.

42 And all ate and were filled;
43 and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces
and of the fish.
44 Those who had eaten the loaves
numbered five thousand men.

45 Immediately
he made his disciples get into the boat
and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida,
while he dismissed the crowd.

46 After saying farewell to them,
he went up on the mountain to pray.

47 When evening came,
the boat was out on the lake,
and he was alone on the land.

48 When he saw
that they were straining at the oars

against an adverse wind,
he came towards them
early in the morning,
walking on the lake.

He intended to pass them by.
[49]But when they saw him walking on the lake,
they thought it was a ghost and cried out;
[50]for they all saw him and were terrified.

But immediately he spoke to them and said,
'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

[51]Then he got into the boat with them
and the wind ceased.

And they were utterly astounded,
[52]for they did not understand about the loaves,
but their hearts were hardened.

53 When they had crossed over,
they came to land at Gennesaret
and moored the boat.

[54]When they got out of the boat,
people at once recognized him,
[55]and rushed about that whole region
and began to bring the sick on mats
to wherever they heard he was.

[56]And wherever he went,
into villages or cities or farms,
they laid the sick
in the market-places,
and begged him that they might touch
even the fringe of his cloak;
and all who touched it
were healed.

Reading the Former Prophet this Week

This next 'fence-post' introduces us Nathan,
The prophet role to David's king
Resisting the royal plan
Anticipating Solomon's succession

For an audio link to Everett Fox' translation of c7,
And some notes:
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2024/06/2-samuel-7.html?q=%222+Samuel+7%22

For old preaching notes…

2018:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2018/07/david-ambition-denied-2-samuel-7.html

2017
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2017/12/love-and-struggle-advent-4-2-samuel-7.html

2012
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2012/07/blueprints-notes-from-www.html

2005
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2007/08/beginning-is-near-advent4-2sam7-luke1.html

Reading the Epistle this Week

The lectionary continues a tour of Ephesians –

For an old audio link
Of me reading Hart translation of Ephesians 2
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2019/02/tuesday-wk-4-ephesians-2.html?q=%22Ephesians+2%22

Reading the Gospel this Week

The lectionary continues with Mark 6 –
The bread from a Markan sandwich,
Skipping a feeding of a crowd,
And a walking on water – stilling the storm

We're left with a summary
Of Jesus' Galilean ministry
Pursued by crowds seeking healing and exorcisms

We'd rather
a teaching Jesus
And disciples returning from their 2X2 ministry
Would rather get apart for a rest break

What do you make of Mark's Jesus
And what this gospel thinks we need to know
About the person and work of Jesus?