

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

We are not Alone

Where do you go to find God?
Or where does God go to find us?

I was out doing the things of life this week when I ran into someone unexpectedly. Wisdom showed up in my day. I didn't call on her she just showed up. In fact she called on me. Wisdom and I began talking - rather she talked and I listened. Our conversation lead me to a kickboxing class and there she was again even clearer than before. I went back to the office and it was as if she was following me rather nudging me on. I kind of tuned her out for awhile because we don't always have time for wisdom but her voice showed up again as I tried to go to sleep.

I imagine no matter where I journeyed this week she might have been there because I have seen her before. I have seen her shopping making healthy choices. I've seen her in the courthouse, making a plea for justice in a small dingy room where a woman is begging for support in the face of abuse. I've dropped by the school and seen her there through teachers and students alike as they learn and grow and seek truth. Wisdom even showed up when I went for a walk in the woods, moving along the trail in quiet meditation. She snuck up on me there and whispered "You are not alone."

Wisdom calls out "I have something I want to share with you, a present I want you to enjoy. You know, I have been around a long time, really before the beginning of time. I have been whirling and dancing with God all along. I am God's delight, laughing and playing. I want you to know the lightness of the spirit and gladness that come when you welcome me. Will you set aside, those thoughts, words, and deeds that make life heavy and sad for you and others? Will you come and laugh and play with me? Will you come and dance with me? Will you?"¹

At times I find myself replying Oh wisdom, oh God I want to dance with you but I don't always know where your leading. And I find it hard to trust the way. I don't always feel like dancing. I don't always know you are there.

¹ Paschal, Jeff "Feasting on the Word" Prov. 8

And then the words of Jesus speak as another reminder that God is with us in so many ways and forms so that we never need feel separated from God. Even when we don't understand God completely.

Jesus said "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." So that we might understand God better the trinity was created. But it is not in the doctrine that we are opened up it is in the ways in which God manifests God's self. It's okay to not understand it. God is experienced more often than understood.

God is experienced as we see the creation, as we feel the warmth or depth or spirit, as we read and begin to see who Jesus was. But we will not always understand all of life. That is not what faith promises us. We will always wrestle and the beauty of these passages is that it says God is with us in the wrestle and the journey of life. Calling out to us, speaking through us, living amongst and within us. We are not alone. The presence and wisdom of The Holy is all around and within us. As we are created in God we are created in God's wisdom -your wisdom is gathered up within divine wisdom.

Wisdom as defined in the bible is not at all the kind of Wisdom we expect to see. When we say wisdom we often think of a stern, tight-lipped somewhat judgmental older person. But that is not at all the picture of wisdom here. Wisdom says I was creating with God daily in God's delight, rejoicing always in God's world and delighting in the human race. Wisdom brings joyous laughter, dance and play. And to top it off, Wisdom rejoices in us.

"Wisdom is the speaker who not only explains who God is, but reminds us of who we seek to be. Wisdom speaks to everyone, and every one of us has a piece of Wisdom in our souls, if we just pay close enough attention. Do you pay enough attention to the wisdom you have around you? How do you recognize wisdom? Does the wise one have wisdom based upon experience, or education, or a combination of both? What about the wisdom of a child? Might it be more pure than the wisdom of an older sage?"²

John Calvin wrote "Wherever you cast your eyes, there is no spot in the universe wherein you cannot discern at least some sparks of his glory. You cannot in one glance survey this most vast and beautiful system of the universe, in its wide expanse, without being completely overwhelmed by the boundless force of its brightness."

We as Christians are encouraged to be in correspondence with the holy wisdom and truth. And we can learn that wisdom from natural sciences, philosophy, psychology, artists and more. God is not the prisoner of the Christian church. We must expect God to be present and at work both outside and within.

² Donley, Douglas "Feasting on the Word" Prov. 8

I imagine most of you are like me and at times you don't feel so wise. Sometimes even people tell you you are and you don't believe it. Perhaps you don't always live into the wisdom you have. But what if we believed God gave us wisdom? What if we believed God gave others wisdom? Would we see wisdom then? Would it show up at work and in the market place, maybe even at church? would we embrace her spirit that we might live more fully?

The wind of the spirit is also called wisdom and she dances and laughs and rejoices in us. Let's be open to that wisdom spirit. let's dance with her, laugh with her - allow her to guide us through our tears, pains and sorrows. She is calling out to you. Listen to her - in the friend who really cares, in the spirit that walks with you in the forest or plants with you in the garden. Open your heart to experience wisdom through Jesus and the scriptures. Feel the holy presence that surrounds you and live into its spirit that is drawing you to fullness of life.

Amen.