

Advent 2 2022

Matthew 3: 1-12

Peace

Today I have a question for you. What brings you peace? At this task focused time, what makes you calm?

There is much to during our Advent waiting time. It took effort to dress the church. Last week I talked about the difference between chronological time and Chairos beyond time. The only time we have to meet God is now. Do you realise that purple is the liturgical colour of this season because it is the colour of kings. In the coming week I wonder if you will have time to pause to think about the nature of our King. What part will calm what part will calm and desire play in growing our understanding?

As we rush around in preparation we are constantly told and shown what will bring us the perfect Christmas. Toys for children, jewels for partners, presents for co-workers. Food for the perfect family occasion if we live close enough to be with them or even want to be with them. And on and on it goes....

But these voices never tell us what we really want and long for and desire in body and spirit. In order to know what we actually want we have to take time-out to wait and wonder. These two activities are possibly the very opposite of what we find ourselves doing.

What really speaks to you? What dreams have you buried? What wounds cry out for healing? What longs to be born in you this season? What is the yearning that we dare not name?

You see, our spiritual journey is about integration of our personal desires and our vision of God. Rather than being separate, our vision of our deep desire, and God, spring from the same source. You've heard me talk of the 'sweet spot' before. When we find that place, we glimpse wholeness.

Another way of framing this is a project is the search for Wisdom. Specifically Spiritual Wisdom. Here is an explanation from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is radiant and unfading  
and she is easily discerned  
by those who love her,  
and is found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known  
to those who desire her.

One who rises early to seek her  
will have no difficulty,  
for she will be found sitting  
at the gate.

To fix one's thought on her  
is perfect understanding,  
and one who is vigilant on her account  
will soon be free from care,  
because she goes about seeking  
those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them  
in their paths,  
and meets them in every thought.

*(Wisdom 6:12-16)*

So where and how do we find this quality of wisdom that will bring us peace and fulfillment? Wisdom generally comes with maturity as we grow into the self physically emotionally and spiritually. Though that said, I have seen great wisdom in children who are not contaminated by socialization.

Wisdom at Advent is about growing into an awareness of God's gifts to us.

Advent is a time of expectation and an eager looking to the spiritual world. Part of this experience is to seek and sift. This is not only a head activity a thinking task, it's work that involves our whole being.

If you are truly entering into the expectancy of these weeks what we are called to do is peacefully yield to the Spirit. Probably all of us find it easy to do active work but it is hard for us to really give into **waiting and yearning after God.**

If we look to Jesus' actions, we see that he radiated God. He did it at while boating, at dinner parties, on journeys, with friends and through healing and preaching. Jesus changed such ordinary events into actions that touched people at the deepest soul. What could you and I achieve for the Kingdom if we were to surrender our simplest activities to active waiting on God?

Forgive us, God,  
when we live our lives  
within the lines,  
when we say  
this is the shape of our work  
this is the boundary of our

habitation

these are the limits of our love

these are the lines of our vision

these and no other.

Draw us beyond our patterns

into yours:

shifting, moving,

curving spiraling,

many-colored, ever-changing,

stretching, pushing,

challenging, renaming,

unsettling, disturbing,

casting forth,

and welcoming home. Jan Richardson from *Night Vision*

### Reference

Richardson, J. *Night Visions* Warton Gospeller Press Florida 1998