

Sunday, June 27, 2021 Sermon  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8)

It is time to put away childish things. As St. Paul reminds us, there was a time when we thought and reasoned as a child. This is not what our Lord is talking about when He tells us to have faith as a child. Faith of a child is always looking for what is not seen. Childishness is settling for little things and going no farther.

David lamented the loss of his companions in warfare. There has always been war. Protesting it is like protesting sin in this age. It just is, whether we like it or not. I am not justifying it, nor encouraging it. It just is. There is the reality that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities and forces of wickedness that seek our destruction. From a pure heart, our Lord teaches us to see things in reality, the way they are, and not as the world does, always feeding our egos in order to feel good about ourselves and our circumstances.

There is more than enough for everyone. The Lord provides. But there are those who take unto themselves and do not share. There are those who think the church should give everything away, but such a thing is not possible. We live in an age that does not seek, nor understand the reality of the kingdom of God.

Why would the Lord allow a woman to spend all that she has and leave her unhealed? Why indeed? I do not know. He did and that is what I do know. If I look at the Lord with honest eyes, I must see all things through the promise that He is working all things together for good for those who love Him. The truth, in my confession, I do not know good. But God is good and so I must seek to know the Lord God. That is why Jesus taught us to always be in prayer. I cannot limit my communing to once a week, I must constantly be in prayer and learn how to pray anew each day. Our eyes are clouded, but the Lord grants true sight and with it, wisdom.

Learn how to share.

Jesus was walking through the crowds and a leader in the synagogue pleaded with Jesus, "Come, heal my daughter." Like when Lazarus was ill, Jesus was not in a hurry to get there to heal the girl. "Why doesn't the Lord do this now?" The Lord will do what He does. Time is not handed out one moment at a time for our Lord the way it is for us. He invented time. All time is in His hands. Our Lord does not live out life in the time-line the way we do. All moments are "now" for Him. But never mistake this for the truth He has spoken that He is bringing all things to fruition as He has promised. The Lamb's book has been written and He knows all people.

Yes, our Lord loves all people. He does not desire that any would perish. Faith is what I have. Faith in God. I have loved this place we call home. I have been many places and I love the beauty of God's creation. I have also seen what people have done to it. I mourn for what I once saw, but now is lost. But I see through dim eyes. The One who sees all things bids us to come with Him and see things through His eyes.

What will become of us in this post-pandemic world? We shall see. What I do know is that the God who created all things bids us to walk forward in faith. Faith, the assurance of things not seen and the conviction of things hoped for. Live in faith, hope and love, these three knowing the greatest of these is love Himself, our Lord who is love Incarnate.

My prayer is the you realize that the pollution of this world tells us we're okay and our Lord just needs to brush us off and send us on our way. Listen to today's word. It's war out there and they fall at your right and at your left. There are many, raised going to church, who have bought the world's pabulum that there is no God, because the world is a mess. Yes, the

world is a mess and God did not create the mess. Humanity has taken the good and keeps it, each to his own. We do not share and the world cries out, "That's not fair." Our Lord was heading to the cross. The world killed him. But death does not reign, our Sovereign Lord does. Whom then will you follow?

The woman was allowed to have her infirmity for a purpose. We all have our infirmities for a purpose. We do not live for the body, for it will perish. But, we do live for life and true life is found in living with the Lord who created us. Seek balance. Moderation, as some call it. Yes, we can enjoy the things we enjoy, only do not live for those things as some do. But also, keep your eye upon the prize. Will it be desperation that drives you? For some, it is.

The woman reached out in desperation, but the healing she received was more than she was after. Yes, what this world could not do, our Lord did. But awakened in faith, she now had a different purpose for living. This is at the core of what Paul meant when He said that to live is Christ and to die is gain. Daily, we are confronted with the need to die to something, summed up in dying to self, sin, death, and the devil. We are to die to the things of this world in order to live into the life we have been given in faith. Yes, she was healed. The living water of your baptism heals. Do not think lightly of what the Lord is doing. He who created the heavens and the earth is creating in You the image of a child of His.

Jesus knew what Had happened. Jesus knows what is happening. Purposefully He asks the things that to us, seem beyond comprehension. "Who touched me?" He knew, but He wants us to know. The small touches we never see are as clear to the Lord as anything we clearly see. But Jesus walked on. We may tarry and linger, but Jesus marched on toward the cross. We too must march on to our cross. This age is filled with suffering. Many suffer silently. But it need not be this way. Do we not sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus?" Live singing the truth of this song. He said, "You have called me Lord and Master, for so I AM, but from now on, you shall call me friend."

Jesus walked to the house of Jairus. They laughed at Him. The world laughs at Jesus. He is a weak god, the world says. In part, what makes the cross so powerful is that the weakness of God is what conquered the strength of this age. How much more then will the strength of God empower all who believe to be children of God? God does not seek the last laugh as the world does. Everything belongs to the Lord and He rejoices in one of His little ones being in His arms. He loved Jairus daughter more than Jairus ever could. He let her sleep.

Each of us is destined to sleep the sleep that we call death. But never forget that our Lord, several times, called it sleep. Death is not the final answer as our world promotes. Jesus is the final answer. He who died and was resurrected has promised us that we shall join with Him. The chasm between eternity is great, but greater still is the One who came from eternity to lead us to be with Him. We know that only the One who descended can ascend. When we are united with Christ, we are united not just to His death, but also to His resurrection, for He is the resurrection and the life. Of course He will raise us on the last day. The last day of this age, but the first day, for us, of eternity.

Sometimes, Jesus allows us to witness these things. There were witnesses who saw Jesus speak to the dead. Has He not spoken to us, as good as dead, in order that we may have true and everlasting life? He says to us what He said to her, "Get up." Do not be amazed at what the Lord does. With God, all things are possible. Be amazed that He has invited you to join Him. Join with Him then and be transformed by the renewing of your mind, which He is doing and shall do in the abundance of the grace He gives to those who believe. Amen.