

“Dare to Taste and See” Rooted in Giving 10/25/2009

Kenmore UMC Psalm 34:1-8, Mark 10:46-52

God has great gifts to give and we have the great privilege of receiving them and bearing fruit in his name. As C. S. Lewis has said, “Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak... We are too easily pleased.”

Rooted in Giving – Growing in Grace

Do we see? Will we be captured by the vision and dream?

An elderly man was walking on the beach with his only grandson, when a giant wave crashes onshore, sweeping the boy out to sea.

The man looks up to the heavens and cries out, “Oh Lord, this is my only grandson. How can you take him away from me like this? My son will not understand. My daughter-in-law will die from grief.”

Another wave comes by, and deposits the boy at the old man’s feet. The grandfather looks to the heavens again and says, “He had a hat!”

We humans are a grateful bunch aren’t we?

Remember last week when we read of the disciples walking down the road and James and John asks for the best seats in Jesus’ heavenly kingdom and the other disciples got angry with them for asking before they did?

This week a blind beggar by the side of the road asks the Son of David, the promised coming One of God, for mercy. In the midst of the crowd of disciples on the road who are trying to get the man to be quiet, Jesus hears the cry of the blind man, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, and Jesus said, “*Call him here.*” And they called the blind man saying to him, “*Take heart; get up. He is calling you*” He springs to his feet throwing off his coat and Jesus asks him the same question he had just asks James and John, “*What do you want me to do for you?*” and the man replies with the multilayered response, “*My teacher, let me see again.*” And Jesus sends him on his way telling him his faith has made him well.

And this is where we see the multiple layers of his original request. “*Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*” He could see not only with his eyes, but with his heart and he left behind who he was and followed Jesus. He followed Jesus to Jerusalem. (this is where you should hear ominous music playing, for Jerusalem is the place where three times Jesus has told them “the Son of Man will be handed over to the religious folks, they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Roman authorities; they will mock him and spit upon him, and flog him and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”)

So the question is, “What do we want Jesus to do for us?” What do you want Jesus to do for you?”

How about remember the times when the Psalmist’s words were your words, “***I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from my fears.***” 34:5

We are a society that is told to live by our fears, the profound what will I do if faced with serious illness or financial setback, or loss of a relationship?

To the mundane how will I lift my head in front of my friends if my team loses or my favorite movie star does something silly? Or if I don’t look right at the big event?

The Lord has answered us and delivered us from our fears, Will we Dare to taste it and See it in the present?

The Psalmist proclaims, “***The poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.***” 34:6

When we have faced that difficult struggle in our lives, when we felt most alone, have we not been like the person having the dream in the poem “Footsteps in the Sand.” Who looked back and saw that it was then the Lord carried us?

Again the Psalmist remembers and celebrates what it is to live not in the fear of events around us, but in fear of the Lord. “***The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.***” 34:7

In our need, individually and as a community; in our concerns for our country and for the world; the call of God's word is clear let go of our fears, so that the Lord might raise us up, gives us eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to follow.

In the Psalmist's words, "***Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.***" 34:8

When we have been, or when we see those who are cast aside on the side of the road to cry out and know God's mercy will be granted and we will be able to rise up and follow the Lord on The Way.

Will we dare?

I find the words of C.S. Lewis a great challenge and promise when he says in *The Weight of Glory*, *Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are halfhearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*"

The reason Jesus so often brings a child among them to say we are to receive the kingdom as a child is because as we get older our capacity to dream gets snuffed out by the harsh realities that overwhelm them.

Well that is not the word of the Gospels, or the Psalmist who calls us to remember to claim God's promise and reality, to rise up and follow, to dare to dream God dreams, to dare to claim God's love, to dare to embrace a hurting world in the love of the Kingdom of God, to dare to baptize a child, Breanna, into God's Kingdom, where God names her "Beloved," just as God has named each of us.

When Bartimaeus rises up, Casts off his coat, regains his sight and follows Jesus, he is inviting us, each of us and all of us who are Christ's body the church to;

Dare to Taste and See that the Lord is good.  
Dare to live and give our lives,  
**Rooted in Giving, Grounded in Grace.** Amen.