

TRINITY News

The Second Sunday of Pentecost Touching the Sacred

A priest called Norman Byron once asked me why we always use the biblical text in sermons.

We use the biblical text in sermons because the sermon must keep in touch with the sacred. Otherwise we will be prattling on like the myriad chattering heads in our psyche. The biblical stories have a sacred heart. We need to have an assured touch of the sacred in a sermon. The written word was at first a spoken word. We reverse the process in turning the written word into a spoken word again. The creative genius of speech observed in Genesis is always affecting the turning pages of history. Primal stories, the resource narratives, are never assimilated in the current stories of the latter day saints. They have to write their own stories. At the core of the sacred text is a word from God. We have to look for it carefully. We should always look for the words that are begging to fly off the pages into the mirrors of our eyes.

The passage set for the gospel reading today has some difficult sayings and some words that are extraordinarily deep and beautiful (Matthew 10:34-42). Listen to these words: "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (10:39). These words jump off the page. They are entrancing because no one can ever get to the bottom of them. What did Jesus really mean by these words? After all, we are indeed interested in finding the deepest issues of our life and drawing from them the inspiration that can sustain us every day. The real aim of life would seem to me to find out who we really are in the most deeply constituted aspects of our being. If we are on automatic pilot we will pass over such matters like someone skating over the ice of a pond without knowing about all the fish swimming beneath. Surely what Christ is saying here is a matter of priorities.

Just as the a sermon cannot be preached without touching the sacred in the text, so a life cannot be lived or discovered in its deepest aspects without touching the sacred. If we 'lose' our life by placing it in the hands of Christ it opens up panoramas that did not seem to exist before such an act. Christianity has an absolute fascination with the life of Christ. When we set out to believe in him somehow or other we are caught up in his life and it affects everything that happens on our pilgrimage. This is the reason that some people shy away from becoming a follower of Christ. They are quite right to suspect that it will affect everything that they say and do in the future. Being a Christian woman or being a Christian man is after all the central pattern of conduct for every Christian. When we carry the name of Christ we are carried by the effect of his life on our life.

Christ makes the extraordinarily bold claim that in him we will find the deepest part of our selves and ultimate satisfaction. He calls us to take up a cross. There are many crosses in life and we all have to bear them. But entering into his experience of the cross is not only to share his anguish but also to share his glorious vindication. "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me". What a wonderful concept of life! We walk with him down the road and the road leads to God.

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145; Romans 7:21-8:6; Matthew 11:25-30

THIS WEEK:

Monday, June 27.

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory

Tuesday, June 28.

- Bible Study, 10am

Thursday, June 30.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.

Note of Thanks.

The Membership Committee would like to thank Bishop Taclobao, Bishop Jones, members of the 7.30 & 9.30 congregations, the ECW, the Youth, Sunday School and CHT Office Staff for supporting the Trinity Sunday Potluck Brunch. To those that contributed food, cash, set-up and cleaned-up, your support helped to make the event a success. Individual feedback received by committee members following the event has been very positive.