

# TRINITY NEWS

## Sixth Sunday After Pentecost - The Cost of Discipleship

The mustard seed parable reminds us that small beginnings can lead to great things. It also reminds us of Jesus' comment that even the hairs of our heads are counted by our Heavenly Father. Now that's small! The tiniest of matters can be of huge importance. We tend to slide over the things that are of small consequence and concentrate only on the bigger issues. But it is the tiny things that make all the difference. There are a thousand and one little things and indeed many thousands of things in a lifelong relationship that make all the difference. We all need to learn that human love and human affection is cumulative. That is, it gathers around many key aspects. Many things accumulate into a relational experience. It is the little things, the smiles, that gentle touch, the remembrance of a moment that you thought had long been lost; the remembrance of words that you assumed had passed into oblivion, but suddenly you are reminded that they are remembered and treasured. These may appear as little things but without them the whole is diminished. "Little things mean a lot", says a past popular song, and that's right. Jesus says that if we are not faithful in little things we will not be faithful in the big things. It is not only from Jesus: it is from the voice of our experience which continues to be heard in our lives day by day.

The Reign of God on earth began in its fresh historical manifestation in a Prophet who walked through the fields of Galilee and left not only the imprint of sandals in the dust but lasting imprints of his person and being and ministry. Something huge came out of "one solitary life" as his life has been called. The parable or the saying about the yeast leavening the whole mixes yeast with flour and then it rises up to create something edible and tasty and sustaining for the body when cooked. It is like that with the Spirit of God. It affects the whole of our being, touching every aspect of who we are and helping us on the journey. The touch of the Spirit is never just for us, never just for a particular incident. It is for the whole of our journey and whole of our being and our whole of our perception. When we have a conversation with someone who is as near to complete integrity as we can find, we must try to be as utterly open as we can be. We can only be honest because the person sitting there with such an integrated personhood knows when words are truly luminous with goodness or whether they come on false whispers of the wind.

At the end of the explanation of the parable of the Wheat and the Weeds in Matthew there is a little section of three parables unique to Matthew. One is about the man who finds treasure hidden in the field and he hides it in the field. He then sells everything that he has so that he can buy that field. It is about giving everything to focus on the kingdom of God and following the Christ on his journey through it. Secondly there is the parable about the merchant in search of fine pearls to sell at the market. The merchant finds one pearl that is utterly priceless for him because of its long-term value and the pleasure that he can get from looking at it. He does not want to sell this pearl! So he sells everything he has to buy it. This is a parable about the total cost of following the Christ on his pilgrimage to the heart of God. Finding what really matters to us and following our 'daemon', our motivational passion, is what really matters. No-thing is more important in any day than to get up and to try and find one's way into peace, to be at peace with oneself. Without this inner peace in whatever measure nothing else will work as effectively as it can when we are at peace with ourselves. This is the pearl of great price of human emotional bases and resource points. Thirdly there is the parable of the dragnet that is cast into the sea and brings in fish of all kinds. They drag the net ashore and sit down and sort out the good from the bad. It is like all ancient stories and indeed modern ones about sorting out between good and evil. The penalties at the end about fiery punishment have been of huge interest to some Christians. It would be interesting to have a psychological study of the motivational hostilities that drive such a need. Surely our attention should be focussed on the discovery of what is good and noble and lovely and lifting it up in faith to God with joy. Something **heavenly in that!**

Bishop Arthur Jones

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Nehemiah 9:16-20; Psalm 78; Romans 8:35-39; Matthew 14:13-21**

ECW, CHT is cordially inviting all registered members & interested churchwomen to its 5th membership meeting on July 30, 2011 at 2pm , Saturday, CHT Parish Hall. See you!

***TO PLAN:***

***July 26, Tuesday.***

- Bible Study, 10am

***July 28, Thursday***

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

***July 30, Saturday.***

- ECW Meeting.