

TRINITY NEWS

Advent II The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall judge not by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor; and decide with equity for the meek of the earth” (Isaiah 11:2-4).

Isaiah sees the figure that he envisages coming out of the ancestral roots of his people. He envisages someone the like of whom they have not seen before, someone who would clearly teach and exemplify the whole counsel of God. It is no good being wise unless we understand the situation into which we place our concepts of wisdom.

The spirit of counsel and might is a strange combination because counsel is often aligned to perceptions that require no power or exertion of influence or manipulation. But it does carry might in itself if it is disconnected from those limiting and hindering qualifications.

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord go together for all of the great Hebrew teachers before and after Christ. The fear of the Lord does not mean a trembling and servile approach to God, but a sense of awe in the presence of utter purity of heart. This inner purity enhances the integrity of “the interior will of God” (*kalooban*) that penetrates all that is good on the earth and in the universe. Only the Tagalog Lord’s Prayer translates “your will be done” as “your (interior) will be done”, giving a sense of God’s will coming from the heart of God. It requires great humility to be able to accept that there is someone “for whom no greater can be conceived” as Anselm said in a tight economy of words. It is within that context that we stand in awe of God, not in cringing fear or mindless subjection, but with an acute awareness that there is no other greater or more perceptive in counsel.

Wisdom is simply seeing people as people and God as God, without prior speculations and reservations. Seeing a person as they are without wanting them to be what we require, and seeing God in awesome majesty and vast tenderness of heart at the same time sets the scene for wisdom and fruitfulness of conduct and life. It is not the eyes that see or the ears that hear which enhance our perception of people, but “heart speaking to heart” that perceives and understands. We do well to act from within the humanity of Christ because of its exquisite tenderness, and we do well to see God through his eyes, the eyes of the Righteous One who saw into God’s heart. Wisdom is the Pearl without price, it cannot be bought, it can only be experienced and treasured. It is far more realistic than any hard-nosed assessment that already knows the verdict.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Dec. 11 (Wednesday).

- Bible Study, 10:00am

Dec. 12 (Thursday).

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

GOODIES SOUGHT.

A sign-up paper is on the board by the Parish Office for those who wish to bring some cookies, cakes, chips, etc. to be shared after the Midnight service on the 24th. Christmas punch will be served.

