

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 22 Someone Always Comes

And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? This is the summary question at the end of a parable told by Jesus in Luke 18:1-8.

The "Son of Man" is the title that Jesus used of himself during his ministry. It would virtually die with him, occurring only a few more times in the New Testament. It was applied to some of the prophets by God, prophets who cried out for justice.

The story appears at first to be a simple one. A woman comes to a judge of poor reputation seeking justice in a matter where she apparently feels she has been defrauded. The judge soon tires of her begging for justice. The strange part of the story is that he mimics his reputation by saying that although he doesn't care what God thinks of him or have any respect for other people, he will grant the persistent widow justice. He is tired of her pestering him. She is a nuisance to him and he wants her to go away. **"Conscience is only a whisper, but it is persistent" and it gets louder when we deny justice to someone.**

Jesus tells his followers that they should listen to the story of the unjust judge who reluctantly administers justice. He then contrasts it with the justice of God, who gives freely to his people who cry to him day and night. There is no delay and justice is swift from the heart of God. Love and compassion flow from the heart of God without delay and pure justice is meted out to those who cry to God. This is what God wishes to give to his people who cry to him. Whether they are open to this or not is put forward in the question at the end: "Will the Son of Man find faith on the earth when he comes?" That is the hinge question.

This parable reminds me of an assurance given by Jesus in his mission charge to the Twelve Apostles in the Gospel of Matthew: "Whoever endures to the end will be saved" (10:22). Jesus thinks that the justice of God is unstoppable, that nothing can stop his justice being exercised in the world.

It is a matter of huge trust to believe that in the midst of the things we see around us every day. Jesus does not present utopias or minimize the failings of humanity. But he does believe in ultimate justice for someone who trusts entirely in God, and he also thinks that those who administer justice are the ones who know what justice really means. The ones who cry out for it also know what it means even when they are far from it in their experience.

The woman's voice resounds in the night. The unjust judge develops a conscience even if it is on the basis of being a self-serving person. Did Jesus know people like this in real cases and actual outcomes? I suspect that he was sympathetic with the state of the judge as well as that of the woman. Such a little story, packed with so much meaning under the surface of a simple if somewhat strange story at first glance. Where does your story fit into such a story? **What injustices have you known and what were the outcomes? Where has God been in your life in seeing you through things that you thought you could never manage? Yet somehow on the way you did come through and you discovered that you were not alone. Someone always comes.**

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday.

- Finance meeting, 5:30pm, Parish office.
- Vestry meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22; Psalm 84; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14

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BANNS OF MARRIAGE.

I publish the Banns of Marriage between TANYA LINGGON BALIAO of Pasay City and MIGUEL ANTONIO AYUYAO VERGEL DE DIOS of Makati City.

*If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the **third** time of asking.*

ON SALE! Copies of a book entitled "*With Bigger Eyes and Heart in Head: Being Anglican in Post-Windsor Time*" are now available from Bishop Joel Pachao at the Diocesan Office in Baguio City, or through the Prime Bishop's Office in Quezon City. This is written by The Rt. Rev. Artemio Zabala, who currently serves as a retired bishop in residence in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to a mission fund in Baguio to support initiatives for development of lay ministry of Anglicans.
