

February 25, 2015

Roots

Wednesday

Read Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

The road for Israel was not a glamorous one as they journeyed in the desert those 40 years. It was a time of learning for them, a time of examination. God tested them to see what was in their hearts, and they learned to live off of the Word of God.

Jesus' journey to the cross was not glamorous either. He was beaten and tortured, mocked and eventually murdered. But, he invites us to follow him on that road. The Christian life isn't about eating the best food or having all of the answers. It is about depending on the one who has both of those for us, God. This Lent He tests us and teaches us to live on his Word, who is Jesus Christ the living Word and Bread of Life.

Thursday

Read John 6:47-51

I've spoken of the pelican before as a church symbol. I am told that in times when there is little food to be had, a mother pelican will tear bits of flesh from herself to feed her young to keep them alive.

Jesus promises us the same devotion, and he delivers on the cross. From there he provides us with the food we truly need, his flesh and blood. Through them we receive eternal life. Remember, he did not spare himself, but for your sake he willingly sacrifices his life to ensure that you live.

Friday

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Here Paul gives us a little more insight into the Lord's Supper. "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Have you thought about that? In the Supper, we are lifting up his death as a defining moment. Why? Because his death means life for you. It was there that your sins were paid for and your slavery ended. It is through Christ's blood shed on the cross that you are promised pardon. So, when you eat his body and drink his blood in, with and under the bread and wine you are proclaiming your trust in his death for your pardon, trusting that Jesus will come again to raise all believers to new life.

Saturday

Read Revelation 7: 13-16

Notice how all of our needs are taken care of in this passage. In Christ, we have shelter and sustenance. In the Lamb we have a caregiver. Also, notice the topsy-turvy nature of this passage. The *Lamb* is the *Shepherd* the *Ruler* serves the food. This is what Jesus on the cross does. He reverses the order of things. Through death we live. Through suffering we thrive. Christ's journey to the cross shows us that things are not always what they seem. Our victory does not and will not come through military might, or a glorious earthly kingdom. It comes only through the death of Christ, which even reversed death itself on Easter. But, that is a story for a later time.

Sunday

Come to Church to receive Christ's blessings and strength.

Monday

Read John 14: 1-7

Jesus tells us that we know the Father, because we know him. And in fact, that is the only way to know the Father. "No one comes to the Father except through me." So, if we know the Father through Jesus, what do we know about him? Among other things, we know he has a place for us. In Christ, we have a way to the Father. That way is the road of the cross. Jesus walked it for us, so that we could take our place in God's shelter. But more than that, we have a place here and now. That is, walking next to Jesus. Not just during lent, but throughout our entire earthly lives we journey with Christ for him to take us to our place in heaven. So walk the road to the cross faithfully and know well the Way to the Father.

Tuesday

Read Isaiah 35: 1-9

The redeemed shall walk the Way of Holiness, even if they are fools. Again we see contradictions! The blind will see, the lame will leap for joy, fools will not lose their way, deserts blossom, deaf ears hear. What is this nonsense? This is the foolishness of the cross. In it God, chose the foolish, the weak and the dead to overturn the brilliant, the strong and the living of the world (See 1 Corinthians 1). Through Jesus' death, those who believe in its power to give life are taken off the highway to hell and put on

Jesus' Highway of Holiness where nothing can hurt them. From the cross, Christ moves us to return to God where we will be crowned with gladness and joy. On that Highway of Holiness, our sorrows and pains will be driven away. And at the end of that Highway, we will be given everlasting joy and everlasting life.

Pastor C. J. H.

