

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but sometimes when I read or hear Scripture readings, events from my daily life pop into my mind and away I go thinking about them. The reading from Isaiah today did just that. I was reminded of earlier this month when I sat with Sarah Singh and Dwayne Goins, her newly wedded husband. During the lunch, he would look at her and I could see the sparkle of love in his eyes as he looked at his new bride. Clearly that was a moment of "My Delight" ... "as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you". That's the look of love that God has for me, for each of us---love and delight! It's a good reminder to me not to be so hard on myself sometimes. God loves me! And YOU TOO!

Next, we heard from St. Paul to the Corinthians, where he speaks of spiritual gifts and forms of service. Each of us are gifted by God and then given the graces needed to develop our gifts and the ability to share those gifts through service to others. As I reflected, I was reminded of the man whose funeral I had just attended. Through the homily and eulogy, I heard of a man who had strong faith and a kind heart. The love for him was huge in this large family of his. They told of the ways each knew they were cherished. He had used his gifts to build an honest business to support his family, but beyond that, he valued good work and his employees. His integrity was seen in a moment of difficulty for employees when he stood by and financially supported his former employees until all could find new jobs. Those people saw faith and service in this boss of theirs. I could see that his life had called on each from daughter to grandchild to grow in faith and use their gifts for God. In his last month, he even asked his granddaughter to write a song for his funeral. "To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit". Indeed, the Spirit was manifested, and the benefit was felt by many.

Then in the Gospel of St. John, we hear the familiar story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, only this time I was caught by Jesus' words to His Mother, "Woman, how does your concern affect me?" I thought that's a strange way for a loving son to answer his mother. Then as I thought more deeply about it, I realized that in those words, Jesus witnessed a deep respect for the wedding couple, His Mother, and Himself. I believe His answer allowed the time to touch into His heart to listen and to discern, would this be an act of loving care or simply another *miracle*? How often do we even think that saying 'no' or 'not know' is a good thing? How often do we actually take the time to touch into our heart so that what we are doing is done from the heart with a true desire to give loving care to the other?

This idea of pausing before I respond is not easy for me to embrace, as I, in my life, am a problem solver, but I realize sometimes, I leave my heart behind. So, I'm going to work on it, slow down, connect to my heart and let God's love help inform my day to day actions a bit more. I'll pray I have others giving it a try as well.

Thanks for walking through the readings with me this week. Let's pray for one another, as we each strive to make God's Word visible in our lives.

Blessings!



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