



Monday- December 16th, 2019

Today, the readings from Holy Scripture offer us a lot:

From the Book of Numbers, we read about a long ago message, that “One who hears what God says, knows what God knows, hears what God hears, and sees what God sees ... will have wells that yield free-flowing water, and shall have the sea within reach.”

The next 2 readings specifically cite teaching, so fitting for a school community of faith.

Later, we see the psalmist (Ps.25) write “teach me your ways, O Lord, guide me in your compassion and kindness. You guide the humble to justice, and teach the humble your way. Good and upright is the Lord, thus showing sinners the way.”

In the Gospel (Mt.21), we see Jesus teaching, and some asked him where he got his authority. He asked them, in turn, a simple question in reply. They sensed the truth, but did not know for certain, and so pretended not to know, and so missed out on the truth he was willing to give.

These verses remind me of a teacher from when I lived in Louisiana in the late 1990s, who taught me that one way to understand the Bible is to see it as a story with 2 main characters, God and us. The psalmists, apostles, disciples, scribes, Romans, lepers, etc. might as well be us. God teaches us in humility, compassion, kindness, and goodness—showing us (blessed but sinners) the way. We want wells that will quench our thirst, and the hints offered by the Hebrew Scriptures share with us that seeing and hearing like God, with a heart of love, may give us just what we seek, our deepest needs.

I wonder, with the gospel, what faith may add—when we’re not certain. Can’t we admit to sensing something, knowing partly, even if we fall short of full understanding? What could greater trust in the Divine add to our lives and those with whom we share this path we’re on? God speaks to us today, in our families, friends, students, and co-workers. May we allow ourselves to listen anew, trust ourselves to see, to ask God questions, and be honest and patient in what we sense the reply may really be. I am grateful for the work we do together, our families who support us, and pray that God’s love and wisdom be found among us again this year.

~ Sorin Spohn