



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

King of Glory

Glory: magnificence, splendor, beauty, wonder, grandeur, brilliance, praise, triumph, success, admiration, stardom – and there are probably more words applicable, but these are the ones the thesaurus gives me. Jesus is the king of all these. This is Jesus' kingdom. In other words, as we look around us or as we receive praise for what we do, we need to admit that this is all part of Jesus' kingdom.

Until I looked that word up, I hadn't really thought of all the places we could see evidence of God's handiwork. We sometimes look at a rainbow and wonder at its beauty. We may stop to look closely at a flower or wonder at the intricacies of a seed and realize there is more to this life than we see when we just whip on by. It's all part of this glory that God has blessed us with and over which Jesus is king. Wow!

I would think that in God's term, the glory we know is only part of what the whole of glory is. God's glory is something we can only know in part until we come to that day when it is fully ours because of Christ. This is the kingdom that God has created for us. This is the kingdom he gave his son. This is the kingdom for us that Christ died for. Look around. It is all glory.

Recall what God did in the beginning: In the beginning God "barak" (created) all things. I use that work in quotes for a reason. That is a word for create in Hebrew. However, it is the only time it is used for create – it is used once when describing what God did at the beginning of time. We discover and create out of existing stuff, but God did it out of nothingness. What he did was unique.

It is interesting that a language as ancient as Hebrew made that distinction, but it is also very telling of God's relationship with his children. The image and person of God was seen, from the beginning of time, as unique so that unique language was also used in speaking of God and what God had done and was doing. For most Jews, speaking God's name is forbidden and there are many alternatives used when reading the Torah. That may sound strange to us but it is very respectful and keeps everyone aware of the holiness and uniqueness of God.

All of this is glory. It is the kind of glory the disciples saw on the mount of transfiguration. It is the kind of glory we are coming to and it is the kind of glory that Jesus is king of.

How do we use God's name? Do we understand it as a sign of glory? Do we get upset when people use it casually and without thought? Do we catch ourselves when we inadvertently use God's name inappropriately?

Jesus is the king of all kinds of glory. We can't really comprehend it entirely, but we need to be aware that all of this was God's creation and there is glory in every bit of it. We can still make bad things out of good, but what God gave us was good. We can over do and "under" do with God's gifts, but let us never deny that what God created came out of nothing and it is all good. He said so!

TMK

-- Week of October 4, 2009