

April 19th – Holy Tuesday

Centering Breath Prayer: Holy One...I will boast only in you.

Opening Prayer:

Precious Savior, help me to see your wisdom in the things the world calls foolish. As I come to you today, let me open my heart to the weak things you make strong, the lowly things you exalt, the created things that came from nothing and most of all to you who is all wisdom, strength, and grace for our salvation. May I never boast in anything but you, O Lord, in whose wondrous name, I pray. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 1:27-31: (27) “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (28) He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not = to nullify the things that are, (29) so that no one may boast before him. (30) It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom of God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (31) Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord’” (NIV).

How many of us have watched a squirrel play on the branches of a tree and felt the sheer exuberance of life that it exhibited; or maybe it was a kitten or a puppy playing with a ball of string. We learn a lot of our enjoyment of life from the “foolish things” that this world has to offer, sometimes far more quickly than from a book or lecture or great wisdom. Not only do we learn from these creatures, but they, like human babies, can draw out our protective natures; sometimes causing us to do things, like endangering our own lives to save children or even animals, things that we would normally never even consider doing. Thus, the foolish and the weak have a much greater effect on our lives than the powerful would like to believe.

With the coming of Jesus, things changed from the way they had been for centuries; he did not come to change the law but to fulfill it. He did fulfill the law, but not in the way that was expected; there was no “Jewish Caesar” to bring the whole world under his rule, because that was not the kind of “kingdom” Jesus came to establish. Jesus brought the wisdom of God to us, in the form of a new covenant that we could more readily understand and that enabled each individual to accept or reject it. The new covenant was necessary because faithfulness to the old covenant rarely lasted much beyond the few generations that had lived through the experiences that had generated the national renewal of the covenant. Gradually, Israel would slide back into idol worship and living in a manner that was not pleasing to God. The new covenant enabled us, by faith, to become righteous (given standing before the Lord). It allowed us to be made holy (set aside) for the Lord. And it allowed us to be redeemed (saved) by a gift of grace from God. As God had brought Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, long after their childbearing days were past, to show that Isaac’s birth was God’s doing; so our salvation is not of our doing but that of Jesus Christ who came into this world to

bring God's salvation for each of us. Out of the sin and death that existed when Jesus came into this world, he will bring us a season of victory, a victory of salvation. We must remember that if we must boast, we must boast in the Lord, because it is His salvation that we enjoy. What a wondrous outcome of our journey of love to the cross and beyond!

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 26:26-29; Genesis 21:1-7

Questions for reflection and/or journaling:

1. What "foolish things of this world" has God used to teach me?
2. What is my understanding of the kingdom of God which Christ came to establish?
3. Do I boast in my own accomplishments or in the things which God has done for me?

Suggestions for action:

1. Phrase for you path: **BOAST IN THE LORD.**
2. Review the pearls of wisdom you have gained during the past few weeks.
3. Look to see if some of them seemed to come from "foolish things."
4. Seek ways to put some of these gems of wisdom into practice in your life.

Closing Prayer:

Holy, loving Lord, teach me to boast about the things that you do for me and all your children and how your love and comfort fills my life. Help me to allow this to happen. As I have allowed you to strengthen my faith during this journey with Jesus toward the painful events of this week, I also ask that my faith may remain strong and continue to grow as we travel along the pathway which was established for me before I ever drew breath. Help me to comprehend the magnitude of the suffering and sacrifice that you made for me so that I can, at least dimly, understand the magnitude of your love. In the name of my loving Savior, I pray. Amen.