

Therefore, we Christians have been called to follow in His footsteps as prophets to this generation and to continue the mission that he had started. The mission that brings healing to the blind, freedom to the captives and justice for all upon the face of the earth.

There are three words in the Hebrew language used to refer to a prophet, ro'eh, hozeh and nabi. The former two are usually translated as prophet and nabi remains the most commonly used term of the three both in the Old Testament and the New and hence, we will focus on that. Nabi, is taken from a root word that means 'to bubble forth', as from a fountain.

But why did the ancient Israelites compare a prophet with a fountain? The utterances of the prophets, their messages were thought to spring forth from the Spirit of God upon them, who himself is referred to as the origin of the living waters as in Jeremiah 17: 13 which is why we get this imagery of a bubbling fountain springing forth life.

This imagery survives right into the New Testament period where Jesus picks it up and refers to the gift of the Spirit as a fountain of living waters. For in John 7: 38 he says, 'He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water."'

Therefore, to be a prophet doesn't mean, as you very well know, to foretell future events but to bring forth what the Spirit stirs in us to, to stand up for justice and bring about healing and to STAND UP for what is good, even defiantly. To do so would be to let the river of living waters flow forth from you into the world.

What are some areas in the society into which you can speak and act? A good place, I believe to start is with yourself. Start with yourself, stand up for your rights and yourself.

What are some things that you are fighting for, in your own lives? What are you fighting against?

When you engage against those forces in your own life, you inevitably become a beacon of light and hope unto others, who may take encouragement from your actions and stand up for themselves. Let the river flow. Let it flow freely.

Amen.

Chapel Talks

29 September 2019

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE LOST?

A reflection offered by Chapel Assistant, Noah Archibald

September 27, 2019

Is it the feeling when you've gone for a walk through the woods on a warm afternoon and turn around to face the discomfort of not knowing where you are? Or better yet, is it the feeling when you're in a new area and you lose your friends and you're all alone?

Both of the answers are true and Jesus uses this idea to illustrate a broader point in scripture. Not so much how we can get lost and how we should try to find a map to find our way back but rather on a bigger scale.

We should really be asking, what does it feel like to be lost from God?

To better understand the context of the parable of the lost sheep, we should understand the setting that Jesus finds himself in. Frequently throughout the new testament, Jesus spends time with sinners instead of figures who would've been considered more distinguished and important. And for that reason, he was often questioned. If Jesus was who he claimed to be, he should spend his time with the most important people in society. Pharisees questioned why he should ever hang around the poor and those who sinned. He used the parable of the lost sheep to partly explain but also to reiterate that everyone sins and God cares deeply about all of us.

It is very interesting that it is sheep and a Shepard that Jesus repeatedly brings us throughout the bible. Although frequently referred to, the importance this story is very crucial.

If we think about sheep, we are reminded of near creatures who don't possess extremely vigorous



thinking ability. It would've also been an animal that people were familiar with and could easily understand. The analogy of a sheep works in that sheep are always dependant on another, in this case the shepard. In the same way that sheep are dependant on their Shepard for care, we are dependant on God for care, whether we realize it or not.

It is easy to feel as if we are faced up against all of our problems and we are the only ones who are required to face them. Many of us feel like we don't need God.

I think that it is particularly easy to feel lost in life. Maybe even particularly in university.

I remember entering my first year at Acadia and feeling all kinds of external, unhealthy pressure. I felt very uncertain and knew going into things that I had no idea where God would take me.

Amid much of the stress of starting university, I started listening to negative voices. I started getting consumed with thoughts that I had to live up to what everyone expected me to be. I felt extremely insecure in the sense that I felt it was necessary to be what every believed I should be. I knew at the time that I was interested in politics but I chose a degree in business.

I listened to the voices that said that degrees in the arts were pointless and that I would never get a job. I felt uncomfortable when I told people what I wanted to do and how many would get suddenly quiet and change the subject. I thought that I needed to be what they expected me to be. What this all meant is that I didn't get to do what I knew I was being called to do. I knew I felt called to my current degree but at the time, I held off. I wanted to feel excepted by my peers, my wider family and friends.

When I started my business degree at Acadia, I found it fine, but not much more. I couldn't shake the feeling that I should've been somewhere else. I did well as part of the business department but it was not something that I felt particularly interested or passionate about. To me, it felt more like training and less like learning about something I was really eager to engage with. Nothing against people in business.

What I came to realize after I switched my degree was that I spent too much time listening to those negative voices of doubt and not enough time listening to God. Yes there may be struggles along the way, but if we are doing what God calls us to do, he will help us walk through them. What this story is truly about is how we are called to walk with God throughout life. We are called to pray and do God's will.

Much of our world has lost touch with God. Declining church attendance and church closures are perfect evidence of this. Many have lost touch with Christ but part of being lost is finding your way back. In spite of the darkness we see in the world, we have to remain confident and have faith that God will bring goodness to it all.

This is a parable that is very familiar in our lives as Christians and it is for good reasons. We all have points in our lives where faith is tested but is important that we remember to be open to God and hearing his will.

May we be reminded that God is always with us, and if we ever do get lost, remind us that he will always be waiting for us.

Amen.



LET THE RIVER FLOW

A reflection offered by Chapel Assistant, Ajay Immanuel

September 20, 2019

Our less today [Isaiah 42: 1-7] is essentially a prophecy about another prophet who is described to be full of God's Spirit and who would bring justice to the nations. This text has been traditionally thought to refer to Jesus and in the days following the crucifixion and resurrection maybe even creatively and directly applicable to his followers as Jesus had promised that same Spirit to us as well and our understanding of the church being His body.

