

Pastor Roy's Sermon from May 12, 2019 (Easter 4 and Mother's Day)

Jesus is in the temple during Hanukkah. Some curiosity seekers have heard about Jesus and his indirect way of teaching, "If you **are** the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answers them. He responds, "My actions reveal who I am. Many folks don't really seem interested in listening or growing in their faith. What I have learned from God is true wisdom, nothing else matters. Those who follow me and learn from me understand that God the father and myself are one."

When we embrace the union of God and our communion in God, we begin to truly live in freedom. The faith is simple but not simplistic because true faith is centered and grounded in reality, not a fanciful scheme.

Though simple, we dare not put our faith in a box and say this is the one thing, or two things, or the 3, 5, or 12 step process that will solve all our problems and make us wildly successful in all our dreams. The Good News is God's profound welcome and when we receive and practice that welcome, we are communing with God.

I can hear the passers by asking Jesus from a place of non-commitment, So what is it? What is this Good News?

His complete answer requires personal investment with parables and strange stories and John's signs. It is born of silence and conversation and deep listening. It is deep trust in God's full provision.

Baptism welcomes us into this life. Holy Communion holds us in it. And these are signs. The essence of "it"—the Good News--is deep trust. The sacramental signs strongly point to God's provision throughout our lives.

Tabitha/Dorcas got it. She got the Way. She lived it. She helped the poor in what we suppose was her clothing business. Peter prays and trusts deeply, the unexpected happens. . .and Dorcas lives on.

This is Mother's Day. Mothers learn the good news of deep trust. Sure, all mothers are tempted to rush the parenting process of nurturing, waiting, and trusting that allows their children to develop and grow as they are able and to apply discipline and tough love as wisdom calls. This is no easy thing to do as we all know.

No mother is perfect. Ultimately each must follow her hunches and her inclinations. There is plenty of uncertainty and that drives all of us crazy in our relationships.

Yet part of the good news is that Jesus invites us to flip the whole thing on its head and embrace the uncertainty and love unconditionally since we are not in control. We are powerless as parents and doers of "good works and acts of charity," but we can trust and give ourselves over to love. The union of Jesus and his Father--and by Grace us too--is a union in love. That is the Gospel. Thanks be to God.