

Lent Day 17
Monday February 29, 2016

Reading: Mark 6.45-52

Reflection

I'm a big brother and there is nothing a big brother likes to do so much as torment a younger sister. I remember one Saturday afternoon when a bunch of us were hanging out in the kitchen, playing cards and I made my sister laugh just as she took a mouthful of coffee. Yep. Her coffee came through her nose and all over the table. After it was all cleared up and we'd had a good laugh, she took another mouthful. Yep, again and again, and again, and again. Finally our grandmother in complete amazement and frustration shouted at her, "Stop drinking! He's just going to keep doing it!" Now my sister's problem she was gullible, believing I wouldn't do it again after promising. So, it's not a complete parallel to the disciples who were hard of heart say Mark.

However, there is enough of a parallel. My sister should have realized quicker, based on my recent past action that I was going to keep going. In the same way, the disciple's should not have been astonished at Jesus' coming to them on the water or stopping the wind because they had experienced the miracle of the loaves. Mark doesn't tell us how the two events relate; he just takes for granted that the one experience should prepare them to accept the other. The larger point remains though. The disciples should not be surprised by Jesus.

That's us all over though isn't it? How many times has God provided for us when we needed him too, but then the next time we begin the same level of worry again? How many times has God directed our path to the right thing and the next time we begin to panic wondering if we will be okay? We are hard of heart and as a result we suffer with spiritual blindness (or stupidity). We lack the faith we should have based on God's past actions.

The good news is God doesn't disqualify us for our blindness (or stupidity). The picture is of Jesus in the boat, speaking peace to the disciples, making a way forward for them, and continuing to journey with them. In short, if we are going to be spiritually blind then thank God we are with the one who makes the blind to see!

Prayer

Our God, who is patient and longsuffering, thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you for bearing with us and meeting our needs despite our blindness. Heal us and give us eyes to see. Amen.