

Beloved Servant

May the words of my mouth and the meditations in our hearts be acceptable and suitable in your sight oh Lord, our rock, our strength and our redeemer. Amen

Today's sermon is entitled Beloved Servant. Ever closer and closer to the final hour, Jesus continues to teach and speak about what will happen to him. Each and every step of the journey was all part of the plan. Each aspect of Jesus' life is an important part of the story that soon will take Jesus where he is destined to be. We have seen and heard over the weeks of Lent, our Beloved Creator, as God speaks from heaven, "this is my son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased."

The following week Jesus in all his divinity tells Peter,

“Get behind my Satan, you are setting your mind on things of this world, not on things of the divine world.”

In sharp contrast then, we find Jesus in the temple,

jealous, angry and driving out the unfair money

changers from his father's house. Last week we saw grace and love like no other as Jesus compared himself to the bronze serpent lifted high to save the Israelites in their distress, a healing lifegiving grace. Today, the

servant Jesus calls others to a life of service as he tells them, “those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world, will keep it for eternal

life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will be my servant also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor." A life of service is what we are called to. To serve our God most of all, but to serve others as well from the gifts we ourselves have been given. Jesus served others while he was here on earth. Jesus was sent here to serve and to show others how to serve. A lifetime of ongoing service to the world. But here in our story today, some Greeks ask Philip, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Usually, I'll admit, it is words that Jesus speaks that I really focus on. Really try to preach on, but something kept bringing me back to those words from the Greeks in our story.

Most likely *Gentiles*, although the story really does not say they are *Gentiles*, we figure here they are not yet believers or followers of Jesus. These words, though, become our focus. "We wish to see Jesus." I wonder, for us each Sunday, what it is we come to this holy sanctuary to see? What do we expect from our worship? Most of us here are pretty faithful and we know what to expect for the most part on any given Sunday. We have some idea of how things will go and things we will see, do and say here. What about those who have never ventured through our doors? What would they see if they wander off the street on any given Sunday here in Watsontown PA?

What would we say? "Come and see the baby lying in a manger among the cattle and sheep. He is our long awaited king. Come and see this man who baptizes with water and the spirit. Come and see a man who turns water into wine! Come and see a man who somehow feeds 5000 people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread! Come and see how he heals a man born blind and allows him to see! Come and see him bring his friend who was dead for 4 days back to life! Come and see our king, who when the crowds come, stones in hand, ready to stone an adulterous woman, our king, our king stops them and says, "Wait, let you who are without sin cast the first stone."

Come and see with the woman at the well, come and see a man who has shown me everything I have ever done."

"Come and see this Jesus walk alone in the wilderness 40 days and 40 nights, no food, no water, tempted, all the while by Satan. Come and see. Come and see our king kneel down to wash the feet of his most faithful followers."

Those outside our doors need to Come and See this King, our king, a servant, a faithful, never wavering in all the tasks to be done before going to the cross servant, all according to his Father's good and perfect plan. Do they know? Have they seen? How are they to know if we do not tell them? Invite them here to see.

Often a song comes to my mind while I am writing, and
the song in my head, "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?"

Have you seen Jesus my Lord? He's here in plain view.

Take a look, open your eyes. He'll show it to you.

There are several verses.

Have you ever stood at the ocean, With the white
foam at your feet, Felt the endless thundering
motion? Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever looked at your brother, With the Lord,
there in your midst? Seen the face of Christ on each
other? Then I say, you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood at the cross, See a man hanging in
pain. And the look of love in his eyes? Then I say,
you've seen Jesus my Lord.

We see Jesus in this Holy place because we know the
stories of love and service. We know how to be Jesus
to others because Jesus taught us how to do that. We
who are here each Sunday are so blessed when we
receive the grace of Jesus' body and blood. Our world
needs to see Jesus just as much and maybe even more
than those Greeks who were in the gospel reading.

Show them.

Show your neighbor, show you family who does not come to church. Show those who used to come here. Show your co-worker, the man at the grocery store, the woman next to you pumping gas. Show them just what a life of service looks like. Show them Jesus. Because when I look at all of you, I see the face of Jesus, I see the smile of Jesus, the wave, the nod, the voices lifted in song, the ever small, yet so meaningful things we do that say, "I've seen Jesus. Let me show you this Jesus, this king, this savior who stoops to heal and help everyone in times of need. A Beloved Servant."

Thanks be to God. Amen