



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for November 7, 2021 “The Cedars of Lebanon”

“The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted.”—Psalm 104:16.

The Most Famous Trees of Antiquity

Since my childhood I can remember hearing about “the cedars of Lebanon” in Sunday School and Church. Even today, they seem to live in a faraway place, in an ancient time. It is true that the cedars of Lebanon were well known in antiquity. They were a major part of the economy of ancient Lebanon. Pharaohs from ancient Egypt, kings from Assyria, Babylon and far-flung reaches of the ancient world all went to great lengths to obtain timber from these cedars. (photo: an ancient cedar in Lebanon)



“The trees of the Lord are full of sap” – The Fullness of Living Principle

In his sermon “The Cedars of Lebanon” given September 13, 1863, Charles Spurgeon, the famous 19th century preacher, made three points as he preached about the cedars of Lebanon:

“The absence of all human culture”: people did not plant those trees, some of which are 3000 years old, 100 feet tall, and 40 feet in circumference. It was God. God planted, watered, and fertilized, and the trees grew hundreds and thousands of years without human assistance. The same can be said of a life of faith: God plants and nourishes unlike any human can. Through all time, we must look to the Divine Origin of Creation for our lives.

“Divine Care”: Unlike plants in the Beqaa Valley which are cultivated, irrigated, and protected by human hands, the cedars cling to rocky mountain sides, continually subject to the challenges of weather. We, like the cedars, are not planted in a protected environment. Life is hard, challenging, and rewarding. Yet, like the cedars also we need to put our faith in a nurturing God.

“The Fullness of Living Principle (‘sap’)”: Spurgeon admitted he took some liberties with his translation of Psalm 104:16. In his words, “Without sap, the cedar is no tree. It becomes a dead post and nothing more.” Just as sap literally flows continuously through the cedar trees, so should we invite the Holy Spirit to flow through our lives. Without that sap, we are spiritually dead.

The cedars of Lebanon stand strong and resilient today, admired and awe-inspiring for all who see them, and they are still under the care of the Divine Gardener. As Christians we should strive to trust that same Divine Gardener to sustain us. May it be so. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers this week...the soul of Mary Ann and comfort for her family and friends; the challenges Joseph faces; strength of the Holy Spirit in Peter’s life.