



January 16, 2022 Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

“The Fear of the Lord...”

*The first principle of knowledge is to hold the Lord in awe;
They are fools who despise wisdom and instruction. [Prov 1:7, Anchor Bible]*

What is fear of the Lord? Fear of the Lord is justified by the awesomeness of God. Sadly, we use the word “awesome” too often and too casually today. Can we come up with synonyms? Of course: spectacular, amazing, breathtaking, and so forth. But none of them do “awe of God” justice. Then, let us focus on our attitude towards God, the divine, and how we approach acquiring wisdom. The best model I can think of is Moses, who took off his shoes, putting the worldly demands upon him, to humbly approach the burning bush. When we read Scripture, we should imagine ourselves taking off our shoes and humbly approaching God.



Then, what is Wisdom? Wisdom comes from believing the right things about God and about the way God intends humans to live. Wisdom involves obeying God’s Law. God’s law spells out two things:

- (1) Our relationship with God. Think of the first tablet of the Ten Commandments, commandments one – four: not having other gods; not making graven images; not taking the name of God in vain; and keeping the Sabbath. [see Prov 3:1-12]
- (2) Living one’s daily life in community: honoring parents, not stealing, murdering, committing adultery, bearing false witness, or coveting. [see Prov 3:27-35 and 6:16-19]

Wisdom also involves recognizing that God will hold us all accountable for the way we live and the choices we make. Our decisions have consequences. In that respect wisdom is about viewing the whole world — all of God’s creation — is a divine gift.

We might say that wisdom is right belief translated into right actions: “heavenly perspective with earthly application.” This is reflected in Wisdom from the New Testament [Eph 4:31-32]:

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

A Proverb for Modern Times: “Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.” [Prov 13:3] Have you ever said careless words you wish you could take back? Yes? Then you know, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” is not true. In these days of “say whatever is on your mind,” ask God to set a guard over your mouth and keep a watch over the door of your lips (Psalm 141:3).

Special prayers this week: for pandemic victims; healing for Elizabeth; for a tempering of the discord in our country. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Matt 5:9) Hear our prayers O Lord!
