



March 6, 2022 Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

Goodby for now to Ecclesiastes, Chapter 8:14-15 [New American Standard Bible translation NASB]

There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility. So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a person under the sun except to eat, drink, and be joyful, and this will stand by him in his labor throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

After re-reading Ecclesiastes these past weeks, I can argue that the two verses above are a fair summary of what the “Teacher” would have us remember. Repeatedly, we hear these common themes:

- “there is an order to life, but we may not understand God’s intentions, nor be able to change them”
- “bad things can happen to good people and bad people can be rewarded despite their behavior”
- “yet, in time everyone will face an accounting”
- “accept what you have been given, and enjoy life as best you can while you are alive”

This may be simple-minded, and yet, we know there was a deep meaning and faith behind the “Teacher’s” admonitions. God was there, even though God’s ways are unfathomable. Ecclesiastes raises so many critical aspects of faith that it is impossible to reflect on them all in a short time. So, for now, we depart this book of Wisdom with these verses, the beginning of Wisdom:

The conclusion, when everything has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.
[NASB, 12:13-14]

Our Corner for Lent

This past week the season of Lent started for many on Tuesday, “Fat Tuesday,” one final big meal before the 40 days of self-assessment, reflection, and fasting. On Wednesday, Lent started with a stark reminder of our mortality: the “imposition of ashes.” A black ash cross is put on foreheads with the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” [Gen 3:19] Here is a lenten prayer for this upcoming week, based on Luke 4:1-13:

“Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”



Let us also remember in our prayers: Peter facing surgery; Jan and Frank recovering; Jim dealing with a serious medical condition; our friends who are fighting cancer; peace in the Ukraine and safety for the Craig family; safety for all first responders; healing for those suffering in the pandemic. Hear our prayers O Lord!