



## September 25, 2022

### Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

#### **The Blind Wise Men and the Elephant**

This famous wisdom parable originated in the Indian Subcontinent over 2000 years ago. Below, is a short version. (Please remember that “blindness” and “wise men” are metaphors!)



Six blind men were escorted by their friends to observe an elephant for the first time.

At their destination, the first man ventured forward and ran into the side of the elephant. “An elephant is like a strong wall,” he declared.

The second man walked slowly forward until he bumped into the tusk. “Why, it’s round and smooth and sharp. It is very much like a spear!” he concluded.

As the third man came forward the elephant brushed him with its trunk. “I see that the elephant is much like a snake,” he offered.

The fourth man then eagerly reached out his hand and felt the elephant’s leg. After a moment he shouted, “No no. The elephant is like a stout tree!”

The fifth man chanced to touch the elephant’s ear, and said, “The elephant is like a fan.”

As the sixth man groped around, he grabbed the elephant’s tail, and claimed, “No no. You are all wrong: the elephant is like a rope.”

And so they argued loud and long all afternoon, each with his own opinion, which he felt was right...while the others’ had to be wrong.

#### **Reflection**

What if the elephant in the parable represented God and the blind men’s declarations their understanding of God?

Two thoughts: First, true divine wisdom and a better understanding of God can come to us in surprising ways, if we are only ready to listen. In our world, the loudest and most persistent people (the loudest wise men) may be voices we should not be listening to. And second, we do ourselves a disservice if, in our “blindness,” we stop our spiritual growth with our current understanding, which, we must admit, will always be incomplete. To identify the “wise men” in our lives and our understanding of the “elephant,” let us continue to discuss, read scripture, pray, and do good works, all good ways to allow us to more fully experience God! That is the challenge of this story!

**Let us keep in our prayers:** speedy recovery for Dawn, Margo, and Bill; continued prayers for those suffering from extreme weather (Pakistan, Alaska, Mississippi, California); pray for ourselves as we continue to seek and live by Divine Wisdom. Lord, hear our prayer!