

*I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life **
March 29, 2009

I Am The Way
Laureen Crosbie

A reading from Nehemiah 8:10

Go and celebrate with a feast of choice foods and sweet drinks and share gifts of food with those who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be sorry or sad for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Its not easy to be joyful when you have nothing and you can't find your way. Sometimes we prefer the comfortable and easy way and avoid each other. At the Salem Mission we are given a chance to look people in the eye who may have less than us. To make them feel worthy through our service to them. We are all on a spiritual journey, when we feel lost, let the Lord be your way.

I AM the Truth
Charles Turner

Jesus said "I am the truth." Elsewhere, he says "you shall know the truth."

We start out as children wanting to know the truth; at least I did. When I was little, I used to follow my father around the farm, asking questions. How high is the sky? How does the arc welder work? Do the cows get cold in the winter?

My dad couldn't always answer my questions, although he tried. So I grew up and learned a great many of the answers to my questions. These were called facts. But I also learned that facts and the truth are not exactly the same thing.

But Jesus promises that we will know the Truth. It is an immense promise; I can hardly think of anything more valuable than knowledge of the Truth.

I discovered something else when I grew up. I found that when I did not tell the truth, I felt less real. Falsehood is the land of shifting shadows, where nothing is certain or dependable. Truth is the solid nugget of reality. Truth leads us away from what is false and towards the solid ground of the real. We become more real as we journey toward the Truth.

Jesus tells us that he himself is the Truth, and as we walk with him on our Way, we should become more like him. So we become agents of the truth, and more than that – we also become the Truth.

FOR REFLECTION:

In Lent, we should examine ourselves carefully and face the truth squarely. So in the meditation that follows, please ask yourselves these questions:

Is there a truth in my life that I am ignoring or not facing squarely? If so, how can I find my way back to the path of truth?

I AM the Life

Loretta Larraga

When Charles first asked me to speak this morning, I thought he said I was to speak on the phrase “I am the Light”. And I thought - I can do that. I know a lot about light being a photographer. Then later I found out the phrase was - I am the Life. Now what was I going to talk about? I struggled all week trying to come up with something meaningful about life, but my mind kept going back to the words, I am the light. And the more I thought about it - it is one in the same. As a photographer, I see the amazing transformation that occurs when the right lighting is provided. When I photograph someone, I move my studio lights around, or I move the person into a window where the contrast of light and shadow makes their face come alive with depth and expression. Light brings life.

For the past six weeks my sister Camille has been living with me while she waits to move into her new apartment. When Camille came, she didn't bring too many things, but she brought all her happy, healthy green plant friends along. *My* friends and family know that keeping plants alive is not one of my talents. I often apologize to the few withered little yellowish green plants I own.

Camille was dismayed when she noticed I kept my curtains and blinds closed all the time. “Honey” she said to me. “For plants to grow, they need water, they need food and they definitely need light. Plants are like people;” she said “they both need the same things.”

So the curtains were opened, and the blinds were lifted. And my plants turned bright green and sprouted shiny new leaves. Light brings life. Who knew? Well my sister did.

So did Jesus. I am the Light, I am the Life.

Without light there is only darkness. There is no growth. There is no abundance. There is no life.

So as we move through this Lenten season, open the curtains that block your view to the path showing you the **Way** to Jesus' promise of forgiveness.

Lift the blinds that prevent you from seeing the **Truth** of God's word.

Let the light in. Let the **Life** in.

I am the Way, I am the Truth. I am the Life. Amen.

Reflection: How can I accept more of the abundant life that God so freely offers?

* I am indebted to the notes and ideas in Lectionary Homiletics, April/May 2009, Fourth Sunday of Easter, pp. 35 - 41 for inspiring this sermon.