

July 16, 2020

“The Way of Jesus is the Way of Life and the Way of Life can change the world.” Bishop Curry

I knew this day would come.

Today’s scripture doesn’t really speak to me. Today’s prayers are good but they represent a non-pandemic world of hanging out with family and friends during times of leisure. There is nothing extraordinary – just an ordinary day of scripture and prayer.

However, I am reminded that we shouldn’t let the ordinary deceive us. The ordinary often becomes extraordinary.

I’ve told this story many times but I’ll tell it again.

Many years before seminary, I was frustrated by claims to hear Jesus or see Jesus. Why couldn’t I see or hear Jesus? What was I doing wrong? I set-up an appointment with our parish priest and told him my struggle. He looked back at me and said simply – “You’re looking in all the wrong places.” Rather than looking for angels, archangels, or the Son of God, look for Christ in the ordinary. Don’t expect the heavens to open and God to say “Bur, you are my beloved with you I am well pleased.” Look for God in the ordinariness of the day.

Ever since that day, I can’t count the number of times I have experienced “God-moments” or “Christ-moments” or “Holy Spirit-moments”. I often call them weird in the sense of “something weird happened today.”

Some people would call them coincidences but I know they are holy. For example, when I prayed with my Mom a few hours before she died, the clock in my car indicated 2:37 am when I turned the car ignition on after I left her room. The number 237 was always a special number for me and her. When I saw it, I prayed – “thank you God for this reminder that all is good even during this difficult time”. Coincidence?

Maybe, but when it continually happens in our life, I believe it is holy assurances.

I’ve had Holy moments -- in a beautiful setting of nature, when being stirred out of bed to check on a friend, or when feeling God’s presence in the ordinariness of a ho-hum day.

Shortly after my former law partner and his wife joined my childhood church, my law partner decided to be baptized. We went to the Church on a Saturday morning for his baptism. The same priest who advised me to look for God in the ordinary was also the priest baptizing my law partner. After the service, he asked my law partner’s wife “so what are y’all going to do to celebrate this extraordinary event?” She looked at him and said there was a birthday party for a classmate of their 3 year-year-old so she was headed for the birthday party. He then looked at my law partner who said he had some work to do so he was going into the office. Growing a

little frustrated, he looked at me and I told I was going home to mow the lawn. This was almost too much for him. He responded to all of these comments by offering a prayer. He prayed many things but the one thing I remember was him giving thanks for “this extraordinary baptism in the ordinariness of the day”. So much of what we do is ordinary but there is also so much that is extraordinary in the ordinary if we open our eyes to see it.

When you say your prayers today give thanks for the Holy-moments of your life and for the ordinary moments that became extraordinary!