

Sermon: Spirit of Truth

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; John 16:12-15

Trinity Sunday

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Today's Old Testament comes from Proverbs 8. It is a chapter about Wisdom who shares how wisdom of God and God's Word are for everyone who dares to listen. Wisdom shows how God wants God's people to know of God's truth and God's ways. Hear the Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

¹ Does not wisdom call

and understanding raise her voice?

² On the heights, beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³ beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

⁴ "To you, O people, I call,

and my cry is to all who live.

²² "The LORD created me at the beginning of God's work,
the first of God's acts of long ago.

²³ Ages ago I was set up,

at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,

when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,

before the hills, I was brought forth,

²⁶ when God had not yet made earth and fields^[a]

or the world's first bits of soil.

²⁷ When God established the heavens, I was there;

when God drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸ when God made firm the skies above,

when God established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹ when God assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters might not transgress God's command,

when God marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰ then I was beside God, like a master worker,

and I was daily God's delight,

playing before God always,

³¹ playing in God's inhabited world

and delighting in the human race.

Amen.

Our gospel reading is from John 16:12-15. This is part of Jesus' farewell address, where Jesus shares his thoughts with disciples before he is betrayed and arrested. Things that are shared during this time has deep significance. Now Jesus tells the disciples about the Work of the Spirit and how Spirit will pass on the message. Here now the Word of the Lord.

John 16:12-15

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all the truth, for the Spirit will not speak on the Spirit's own but will speak whatever the Spirit hears, and the Spirit will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ The Spirit will glorify me because the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Triune God, who is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, thank you for being the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. As we look to you and your word for your wisdom, share your truth with us, that we may find your love to help us carry on for today. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts be pleasing to you, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

It is a joy to worship with you on Trinity Sunday or what I consider to be a pastor's confessional Sunday, for where I as a pastor need to confess that I do not have all the answers when it comes to God, especially when it comes to Trinity. I have seen a pastor who prepared a sign and hung it on the pulpit prior to preaching his Trinity Sunday sermon. It said, 'if you find my understanding lacking, please call 1-800-F-O-R-G-I-V-E and leave a message.' I think it is safe to say on behalf of all pastors and preachers, that each time we stand before you sharing our perspective and thoughts in our sermons and meditations are based upon our convictions and hopefully through the interpretation of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us to speak towards "the Truth," the truth with the capital T, truth of God. It is also important that you as the listeners of the gospel check with the same Holy Spirit who dwells within you to see if it is something being heard is in agreement with the Holy Spirit who dwells in you or understand that it might be a truth that comes from different perspective of your own.

As we seek truth through collective wisdom, one might argue that there is a universal truth to all humankind. There is a joy that comes with knowing that we matter, that I as an individual matter. All of us want to feel loved, valued, and be acknowledged for the human experience that we are going through in every season of our lives – may it be a good, bad, or somewhere in between. We want to be recognized, valued and loved not because of what we have or what we have done, but simply for who we are.

The joy of having little children at home is that one can see this play out with purity and innocents. There are moments where as a parent that Sophia and I can do nothing but smile at our children even when they seek out our attention with smallest need. We as the family of God experience it whenever we have the children of our congregation lead us in worship. As they turn and twirl, make faces or ask most challenging questions during children's sermon, we love them and we cherish those moments because we witness how they are being filled with our love and God's love.

The truth is that God sees us, God's children, in the same way. We are made in God's image. God loves us just the way we are, always watches over us and sees us as someone who matters. We matter to God, for God created each and every one of us, special and unique in God's view. It is us who need to see the image of God that is reflected in everyone else, for they are also God's image-bearers. God so loved us that God proved by sending God's one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to live and walk among us, then eventually dying on the cross to bear our sins. God wanted to show that we matter by sending God's advocate, the Holy Spirit, who is known by many names – which today's passages tells us two characteristics: Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of truth who dwell in us. The same Spirit interprets God's Word that are full of depth and wisdom to something that we can relate to in the season of our spiritual journey. The Spirit also intercedes on our behalf when matters of the heart is too grand for words, yet to be understood by one another who shares in the same Spirit and to God.

The truth is that much of the times, we do not like the fact that God sees us as a person who matters more than a person we imagine ourselves to be. God sees us with the same potential that we see our young people and children – full of hope and love that can change the world.

C.S. Lewis in his one of beloved book, *Mere Christianity*, said this.

We may be content to remain what we call "ordinary people": but [God] is determined to carry out a quite different plan... Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what [God] is doing. [God] is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently [God] starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is [God] up to? The explanation is that [God] is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage; but [God] is building a palace. [God] intends to come and live in it [God]self.¹

Friends, we matter deeply to God. Jesus Christ proved that love for us. The Holy Spirit has a palace within us to strengthen and sustain us as an Advocate. The Triune God works together in harmony to show us that God will do anything to be with us, to keep the promise of being our God and to be God with us – all because we matter. Therefore, siblings of Christ, let us come together in harmony, be united in the same Spirit of truth, and seek out other image-bearers; so that we can feed God's lambs, take care of God's sheep, and to follow Jesus to the ends of the earth. So let it be, let it be so. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ Lewis, C.S., *Mere Christianity*, p. 204-205.