

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 - Day 52 – Numbers 9-11, Psalm 43, Luke 1

Who's In Control?

As a people of faith, if we say that we are taking control of our lives, we are not being completely honest with ourselves. Life, the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and change is what happens around us every day. To control anyone of these I believe is a daily process in which sometimes we are successful and at other times, we are complete failures. To be in control of our physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual responses is a major challenge of daily living. This desire to be in control often leads to a false sense of security, authority and peace. It leaves little room for faith in God to deal with the world in a way that we cannot.

Being a physician I wonder if perhaps Luke was a control freak. His profession as a healer would require that he understood precise combinations of herbs and ointments, for controlling certain conditions concerning healing. Maybe, it was a part of his nature as a "scientist" to desire the orderliness of things. There's no way Luke would be left out of this process of controlling information concerning The Truth. I imagine by the time he writes his own account, Luke perhaps realizes that the control he thought he had in physical healing was far surpassed by what Christ could do in faith and rather than depend on his own knowledge, Luke had to learn to respond in faith, much like we must do today. If we are honest with ourselves, we accept that we don't really have full control of anything except to say "yes" to God's daily revelation that guides us toward growth and productivity in Christ. If we are honest with ourselves we understand that our living isn't far from the Israelites during the exodus, who rested in the spirit of a cloud that settled down upon the tabernacle, in which they could not see beyond. Only when the cloud lifted, but remained above them did the Israelites set out and progress forward to that place of promise, that place of hope. We learn as Luke did that we work, live and move accordingly to the Word of God even when it's not always clear as to what's ahead.

The Psalmist reminds us that the Word of God is the light that leads us and to let our complaints be short-lived. Even as we wait in the spirit of this cloud of unknowing we are continually covered by the security of God, the authority of God and the peace of God that passes all other's understanding of who we are and how we respond as a people of faith.

By The Rev. Deirdre Whitfield