

Saturday, January 7, 2017 - Day 6 – Genesis 16-18; Psalm 6; Matt 6

“Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

In a series of readings where we learn about the Abrahamic covenant, intercession for Sodom, Jesus’ instruction on prayer, holy living, and not serving two masters, the message that pierces this miasma of emotional narratives is “do not worry.” This message can be as timely as it is timeless. It offers more than assurance, though. In many regards, Jesus’ rationale for not worrying is a lesson in perspective. To be sure, there are many things that plague our days on this earth. Heavy things that weigh us down and wear away at the hope within us. Our striving in the world takes on many forms, and Jesus delivers a rationale that strikes at our most fundamental needs. “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing.”

Perhaps, this is an easy thing for those who have clothing and food security to ponder over, and then muse, “ah, yes, my existence as a human being extends beyond mere physical existence.” They would be right and justified to do so. What about those, however, that struggle for their next meal, a safe place to sleep, or warm clothes? This I believe is where the lesson in perspective happens. If we are all to take the entire message of the Gospel seriously, we will answer a call to be transformed into the very likeness of Jesus Christ. Those of us with access to life’s resources will remember that existence is so much more than accumulating wealth, power, or prestige – it is about being Christ’s hands and feet in this world. Those of us without access to necessities will remember that in Jesus we are called to trust God who provides all of life’s necessities when we seek the Kingdom and his righteousness. When all of us bear this perspective in mind, I believe it possible then for those who have and know that life is more than food, and the body more than clothing will generously and freely provide those necessities. When all of us bear this perspective in mind, I believe it is possible for those who are in want to know that the people of God who are not clinging to material possessions will be the means by which God provides.

By The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley