

Monday, May 15, 2017 - Day 134 – II Kings 16-18, Psalm 111, Acts 26

An interesting fact about today's Psalm 111 is that it is the first of two acrostic Psalms. Each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Psalm 111 is a statement of the attributes of God and Psalm 112 is a list of the attributes of a righteous person. These Psalms may have been used to teach children about God and God's relationship with the people of God.

I was particularly drawn to the lesson from the Book of Acts today. Once again, Paul describes his conversion experience as he defends himself from charges before King Agrippa and his envoy Festus. What fascinates me is how Paul, in the midst of a trial which have serious consequences, took the opportunity to tell Jesus' story and gave a wonderful concise evangelical sermon. He even provided an "altar call" at the end when he addressed King Agrippa: "Do you believe in the prophets? I know that you believe." In response, King Agrippa asked if Paul thought he could convert him that quickly. Paul, like the great preacher that he was, summarized with a prayer that, if King Agrippa were not converted by that short sermon, he and all that heard Paul speak that day might become "such as I am – without the chains." I will never be the preacher Paul was but, as the old hymn says:

If you cannot sing like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.

I take inspiration from Paul's ability to turn every event in his life into an opportunity to share the love of Christ and to witness to the changes Christ has made in his life. I pray I may follow his example. As today's Psalm says:

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart...

By The Rev. Marjorie Oughton