

Easter 5A 2014

Finding the Way

Last fall I hiked up Talcott Mountain so that I could see the foliage throughout the entire Farmington Valley. As I was hiking up the mountain, I met a rather distraught man who was coming down the same mountain. When I asked him where he was going, he told me that he was going to the top of the mountain to see the foliage. Puzzled by his answer, I responded, “but you going the wrong way. You are going down the mountain.” The man looked at me with a strange look and insisted that he was going in the right direction, and then he added, “after all, it’s easier to go downhill than uphill.”

There are lots of people today who, like the man I met on the mountain, are going in the wrong direction. Like the man coming down the mountain, they are following the path of least resistance, even though it is leading them in the wrong direction. They are looking for happiness and joy in their lives; they are looking for a sense of satisfaction and well-being. But they never arrive at the goal of their lives because they are going in the wrong way. And like the man I met on the mountain, they are not even aware they have lost their way.

But in today’s Gospel Jesus shows us the way, the truth, and the life. He is the way that leads to God. He is the truth because he reveals who God is. He is the life because he gives us the fullness of life, the very life of God. To know Jesus

Christ is to know God. To hear the words of Jesus is to hear the Word of God. To see Jesus is to see the human face of God.

All of us know this, at least instinctively; and that is why we are here. We know and proclaim that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Our presence here today testifies to what we believe and confess. The fact that we receive the Eucharist week after week affirms our faith that Christ is the way to the Father. But like the man on the mountain, there are moments when we too lose our way. There are moments when we take the path of least resistance even though it takes us in the wrong direction. There are moments we refuse to walk up the mountain, even though the best view is from the top of the mountain.

Today's gospel shows us the way, the only way that brings us joy and peace. Today's Gospel proclaims that Jesus Christ is the way that brings us to the fullness of truth and life. For if we want to know who God is, then we must follow the one God has sent into the world. If we want to know the truth that will make us free, then we must listen to the words of the one who reveals the truth that is God.

I don't know what happened to the man I met last fall on Talcott Mountain. But I do know this: he did not know the way, and so he never found what he was looking for.