

“One Is Not the Loneliest Number”

Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

May 12, 2019

Rerun of May 2, 2004

Listen. Listen to these words, “The Father and I are one.”

We usually focus on the sheep part of John’s story, the protection offered in terms of our being sheep and Jesus/God being shepherd. But listen to Jesus...he has no construct of the Trinity into which he spoke. He was not saying they were the same thing. He was talking about his relationship with his poppa... what he had...what he wants us to have. Abba...Poppa...and I are one.

I invite you for these next few minutes to listen to some (maybe) new ideas...and while listening, I invite you to put your own father and mother...the lovely, the hard, the good, the bad, the ugly, the beautiful of your real world experience...to put that to the side and let your story come along side this image of “Poppa” of which Jesus speaks...the core relationship on which he built his life and ministry. I also ask you, especially if you are female...I am!...not to center on the male/the father to the exclusion of yourself and yet to hear, because you already know it’s true, that it is different... from father/daughter, mother/daughter, mother/son.

Listen...

Father is the first person who chooses you.
-a mother’s love we have and know and don’t need to win, it is the father’s we seek...not a given and maybe that is why it carries so much weight. To believe in father’s love is a leap of faith.

-It gives us courage to risk, to let go and to grow. It brings confidence in the “I can do”

Male mothering.

-learns how to see the world, tackle problems, attitudes and perceptions, sees father relating to feelings, even prayer...find an identity that brings strength

-Mother gets male child through childhood but it is men who must kill the boy softly and teach how you are a man in this world.

-If not intimate relationship with father, it is extremely difficult for men/women to become men/people like Jesus...to become Jesus men. We will have no idea what Jesus is really talking about and cannot find his energy within.

Mentoring in the wholeness of life...male and female...

-spiritual father, mentor...someone who believes in us the way God does

-there is an emptiness in our lives that calls out for God to be relational...not creator, but father/mother

Common Masculine

Common Feminine

Shallow Male

(overly rational, macho, insensitive)

Shallow Female

(self-protective, domestic, too inward, submissive)

Deep Masculine

(Holy man, integrated, balanced)

Masculine/Feminine and true self...the balanced self...with

the assurance of the parent. Jesus...
assertive not aggressive,
sensitive but strong,
determined but not obnoxious,
aware of self without being self-centered,
free without being irrelevant,
energized without being obsessed.

The sheep...lamb as we call him...and the Shepherd.
Whole. Joy-filled. Energized. Relevant. Free to be bold!

Now that's protection! Now that's shepherding!

Now that's lying down,

being restored,

table,

overflowing,

love and happiness pursuing!

Not at death...but in life...in order to live.

Hear it as an individual. Hear it as God's community.

You lack nothing. You fear no thing.

...not roofs or furnaces

...not too much being asked

...not yourself!

Listen to this...The Abba and you are one. The Emma and you are one. You are whole.

Thanks and credit for insights and questions for today's prompting goes to The Wild Man's Journey, Richard Rohr, St. Anthony Messenger Press.