

John 14:1-14

Hold on one second, let me get this out. Right here under my microphone, in my pocket, tangled up with my keys are my Anglican Prayer beads. I take these beads with me everywhere. They are kind of like that young child's blanket the one that tattered and dirty from the kid dragging it on the ground, the one parents have to pry out of their child's hands if they want to wash it. Like a child's blanket, these beads have become in some way... a part of me.

These beads are quite beat up, if you were able to see them up close you would see that part of the cross has broke off. They fell out of my pocket one day and I stepped on them. And of course, they have been through the washing machine more times than I can count. In fact if they go missing that is usually the first place I go to look for them.

At one point, I had thought I had lost it permanently until one day I pick up my dry cleaning and it was pinned to my jacket. That was quite the joyous day. After a piece of the cross broke off I thought I might order a new set, but after scouring the internet I just couldn't find a set that were like these beads.

Anyway, just about everyday I take these beads out and use them to help me pray. One of the prayers that I use... Actually, before we get in to that, each of these beads, like a Catholic rosary, has prayers associated with them so as I work my way around the circle I engage in a number of prayers. One of the prayers that I use is a prayer attributed to woman by the name of Julian of Norwich; Julian was mystic who I believed lived during the 14th century.

That prayer that I use goes like this:

“God of your Goodness, Give me yourself, for you are enough to me. And I can ask for nothing less that is to your glory. And if I ask for anything less, I shall still be in want, for only in you have I all.”

Let me repeat it again, so that you can full flavor of those words.

“God of you Goodness, Give me yourself, for you are enough to me. And I can ask for nothing less that is to your glory. And if I ask for anything less, I shall still be in want, for only in you have I all.”

Those words help to keep me centered, they help to remind me that life is not all about Sean Leonard and what I think I want and what I think I need. And I hope that as I pray those words day in and day that the power of God in that prayer is hopefully shaping me like a potter shapes his clay on the wheel to desire not the things of this world but to desire God.

That prayer is from Julian is also a prayer about finding satisfaction and isn't that what Philip and the disciples really wanted when he said to Jesus, "Lord, Show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Show us the father and we will be content.

Philip desired this grandiose vision of the Father in the hopes that the vision will satisfy his wants, his needs, maybe it satisfy his curiosity, answer his question about Jesus; maybe Philip was looking to be entertained. Maybe Philip is looking for a pick me up that only a vision of the father could provide. Maybe life with Jesus had gotten boring. Seeing Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead or seeing Jesus walk on water or feeding five thousand people from a couple loaves of bread and five fish... that's you know- old news. Those are everyday occurrences. Philip's been there done that and he has the t-shirt.

I think Philip and the disciples essentially says to Jesus “Show me the money!!” Remember the movie Jerry Maguire sports agent, Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr. “Show me the money!!! Philip, the disciples wants to see the money, they wants to see the power, the glory; and we if we are honest with ourselves we want to see the money too. We want amazing things to happen to us. We want to be satisfied. We are looking for satisfaction.

However, underneath Philip’s quest, underneath our quest... for satisfaction is an underlying desire that I believe each one of us possesses, it is a desire that only Jesus can fill.

Though we try our darndest to fill that desire with the things of this world.

Augustine talks of the of the fulfillment of this innate desire when he says “My heart is restless until it finds rest in you.”

So how does Jesus respond to Philip’s request, “Show me the money?” Jesus says right back at you buddy.

I am the money, you have the money right here at your finger tips and yet you don't even realize it. "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life..." I am where you find satisfaction and I am where your heart will find rest.

In a moment when I return to my prayer desk, before we start the Nicene creed I would like us to take a moment and pray the prayer that I shared with you earlier, the one from Julian of Norwich. What we will we do is I will pray the first part and you will repeat it and we will continue that way until we the prayer.

Let us pray,
(10 secs. silences)

"God of you Goodness, Give me yourself,
For you are enough to me.
And I can ask for nothing less that is to your glory.
And if I ask for anything less, I shall still be in want,
For only in you have I all."

AMEN

