

“The Fool”

Psalm 14 & Luke 12; 13-31

Let us pray, Heavenly Father, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you. Amen

Miguel de Cervantes as many of you know was a 15th century Spanish novelist, poet & playwright

He’s most famous for his novel “Don Quixote” which is considered by many to be the 1st modern novel and one of the greatest works of western literature.

The story follows the adventures of a Spanish nobleman named Mr. Alonso Quixano.

And Mr. Quixano reads so many chivalric romances that he loses his sanity and decides to set out to revive [chivalry](#), undo wrongs, and bring justice to the world, under the name *Don Quixote*.

One of my favorite Don Quixote quotes is:

“But my thoughts ran a wool gathering; and I did not like the countryman, who looked for his donkey while he was mounted on his back”.

Referring to his trusty companion who couldn’t find his donkey

And he was sitting on it.

He couldn’t find his donkey...and he was sitting on it!

I think, sometimes we are like that, I am anyway.

Have you ever looked for your phone when it's in your hand?

Or maybe scour your house for your glasses

when they're on your head. We've all done this right?

And as Christians we're like that too:

We search for :

Peace, contentment, good news, harmony

Truth, honor and justice

Love, forgiveness and understanding...Beauty and joy

Faith and trust, assurance and hope.

We look for & pursue these things regularly, don't we?

But perhaps we have become that fool who is looking
for his donkey while sitting upon it.

Our Faith...Our Religion....our belief....our church

Our Christianityoffers that which we seek:

It's here all around us.

Its within our Christian heritage...our Christian history.

It's within our Bibles.

It's within the church.

It's within the fellowship of believers.

How often does Christ say: "If only we had eyes to see"?

That which we seek surrounds us...it blankets us.

It's our own Christian upbringing.

Our church...the Word...the Spirit of God.

(pause) At the beginning of Jesus Christ's ministry,

from the 1st chapter of Mark he says:

"The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand" Ch 1 vs 15

"Follow me" he said in verse 17 to Simon & Andrew.

He cast out demons and unclean spirits.

Are we possessed? Does some demon prevent us from seeing?

Is there some unclean spirit that blinds us?

What keeps us from seeing the donkey we are sitting on?

Why can't I see the Kingdom of God ? It's glory & majesty?

Why can't I see the road...the path, that leads to truth?

(Pause)There is a Chinese proverb quite similar to Don Quixote's quote

Only in this case, the person on the donkey....

Is referred to as a FOOL.

Maybe this is the simple answer to the unanswered questions

we are searching for

We are all foolish!

In 1st Samuel Saul says to his son David:

“Behold I have played the fool and have erred exceedingly”

Maybe this is something we have to repeat with all our heart and soul and echo Saul:

“behold I have played the fool and I have erred exceedingly”

Our eyes need to be opened.

This is Jesus Christ from Matthew Chapter 7 Verse 26 :

“And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand”

Nobody likes to be referred to as a fool....do we?

But if the shoe fits...we've got to wear it.

Our whole lives have been built upon sand!

What do we trust in:

Our retirement plans...our life insurance...the stock market

.... banks...our Government?

(pause) Paul said:

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”

1st Corinthians chapter 1 verse 20

At the beginning of my message this morning

I listed a number of things that we search for:

Peace...harmony...truth...love...trust...honesty...and hope.

We are sitting on the donkey

We are sitting on all of these things!

He who has eyes to see it, let him see.

(Pause) Jesus refers to the scribes & Pharisees as “Blind fools” Matt. 23.17

The Kingdom of God is at hand....it is here!

In Psalm 14, Barb read:

“The Lord looks down from Heaven on all Mankind, to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.”

As Christians...do we understand? Do we act wisely?

Do we have any knowledge?

Do we remember our Christian upbringing?

Do we remember the 10 Commandments?

As we embark on a new President and a new administration
a new congress and a new senate:

Do we remember that we are One nation under God?

Do we remember the individuals who have shown unselfish love?

Do we remember Christians past & present?

Do we seek God?

Because we have forgotten God before.

In 1787 at the federal convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklyn

Addressed our new 11 year old Government with the following
statement:

Now keep in mind, this is 1787, just 11 years after we declared and won
Our independence over England.

Franklyn says:

“In this situation of this Assembly groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with G. Britain, in this situation of this Assembly groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine Protection. -- Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance.”

(pause) Have we again forgotten God?

Do we imagine, we no longer need God?

From the Parable of Luke that Barb read earlier:

A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions

Ample is good....his large barns are full of grain

“But God said to him You Fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you”

(pause) Do we help those in need?

Do we comfort those who need comforting?

Do we study the Bible?

Do we pray?

Do we study peace, love, kindness & goodness?

Do we study truth and honesty?

Moreover...(pause) do we practice these things?

Do we seek God?

Jesus Christ tells us that we are to “seek first his Kingdom”

That truth.... that reality...that knowledge.... that love...that hope
and that happiness of His Kingdom is right here!

It's within these walls.

It's within our souls.

It's all about us!

Jesus says we are to “seek first his Kingdom”

It's right here in St John's.

It's in our Fellowship.

It's in our Church history...our heritage.

It's in the sacraments we share.

It's in the Word we read and study.

It's in all of God's creation:

“Consider the ravens: they never reap nor sow”

“Consider the lilies, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin”

That which we have been looking for....

That which we have been searching for....

Longing for....trying to figure out!!!

Peace, harmony, truth, joy, hope....love.

(pause) It's right here. It's been here all along.

We have been wandering about seeking God's kingdom while all this time we've been sitting on it.

Amen.