

Sponsors' Retreat. Comanche Chapel

May 12, 2007

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. Carolyn Cole, Retreat Master

Sermon: *The Glory of the Lord Is Come Down*

Lectionary – Year B, Proper 11

Genesis 3.1-21

Psalms 130

II Corinthians 4.13-18

Mark 3.20-35

Additional Scripture: Exodus 33; Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 3; 37; Matthew 8.8; 10.24-39; John 15.1-11; II Corinthians 11.16-33; Revelation 7.9-15

Resources: Sermonsplice: “That’s My King”

(See note at the end to find this presentation of 6.15 minutes)

I ask you, Do you really want the glory of the Lord to come down?

Do you want to leave your family and go to Mt. Sinai? Do you want to be controlled by someone else? Do you want someone to tell you to take off your shoes – for you are standing on holy ground? Do you really want a burning bush in your front yard – to have to explain to your neighbors? Do you want to spend 40 years in the desert? (Torah)

Do you want to stand firm in what you know the Lord God Almighty has told you, has led you to do while the congregation turns to you and says, Who do you think you are? We are all holy! (Numbers 16) Do you want to walk in obedience to the Lord God at all costs? Even when it might cost you the last friend that you thought you had? Or your family? Do you want to stand alone? Are you willing to stand in the gap for them after they have lived a life of disobedience?

Do you want to be a man whose wife turns against you, says curse God and die? Do you want to be a man who loses all of his children? Who loses all of his friends and household? Do you want to be a man whose body is racked with boils, with pain, whose health has failed? Do you want to look like a sinner before your friends and family? (Job)

Then I ask you, Do you want to confess your sins? Do you want to acknowledge that you are a man of unclean lips? Do you want to acknowledge that you are undone? Do you want to acknowledge that you

live among people of unclean lips? Do you want a live coal, a burning coal to touch your lips? (Isaiah 6)

Do you want to be found as a man who is beating upon his breast crying out, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy upon me, for I am a sinner? – for all the world to hear? (Matthew 8.8)

Do you want to hear the call that says, Count the cost. Then take up your cross and follow me? Do you want to hear the call that says to forsake all for Him? Do you want to hear the words that shall come true, A disciple is not above the teacher . . . for what they have done to the teacher, how much more will they do to those of his household? (Matthew 10.24-25, 37-39)

Do you want to labor long and hard in imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death, receive 40 minus one floggings on countless occasions, be beaten with rods, be stoned, experience shipwrecks, be a drift at sea, on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from your own people, danger from others, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers, in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked? (II Cor 11.16-33)

Do you want to live a life of a slave? Do you no longer want to make decisions regarding what you will do and what you will not do? Do you no longer desire to decide your thoughts, your ways, your will? (I Cor 7.22)

I ask you once again, Do you *really* want the glory of the Lord to come down upon you?

Do you want to prophesy and speak forth the word of the Lord (Jeremiah), saying “Thus says the Lord,” when the world’s great “religious” ones are saying Peace, peace is all around us? Do you really want to stand forth with the Word of the Lord and be put into the pit to die because you are not a man-pleaser?

Do you want to stand and see things that no one else sees that God has revealed to you, to know the Truth and speak forth to the people who do not want to hear what you have to say (Ezekiel 3)? Do you really want the Lord to lift you up and plant you in the midst of the Valley of Dry Bones, saying unto you, Prophecy?

Do you want to go to the Isle of Patmos and see the terribleness of what is to come as you stand in the glory of the Lord?

Surely, by now, you get the point. To experience the glory of the Lord in your life, the work of the Holy Spirit in your life with might and power is when we walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, the *via dolorosa*, the way of the cross that will cost us. It will be in the mundane life where no one knows you or what you have done for the Lord.

You may even go to your death, a cruel death, and no one will ever know you or what the Lord has done through you for His glory. There are those who are tortured for Jesus Christ, and most of us never know about them, or certainly do not know their names, where they lived, what they did. There are many of those today who are tortured and killed for Jesus Christ by other religions.

There are some that we do know such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran theologian, who was martyred for Jesus Christ. There was Watchman Nee who was martyred for Jesus Christ. There are many of which we know about in the Early Church. We have names, stories, but somehow our lives seemingly go untouched by that great cloud of witness that has gone before us (Revelation 7.9-15).

Do you want to know Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Power of His Resurrection and the Fellowship of His Suffering? (Philippians 3.10)

Now, having said all of that, let me tell you where I stand.

I want to look holy, but I don't want to spend time with the Lord. I want to experience the anointing of His word as it goes forth through me, but I do not want to spend time in His Word. I want the glory of the Lord to come down, but I don't want to have to pay the price. You see, I just want it all to look good and be good – without the suffering and pain. May God forgive me.

And, yet, down deep inside me is the prayer, O Lord God, Thy holy will be done in me.

I believe – you know what I am saying.

Oh, how I want the anointing that was upon Peter as he boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ and three thousand souls came to Jesus and were baptized. I want that anointing that pushes forth the Word of the Lord with power where people's lives are changed, to include mine. I want that anointing that gives to us a new spirit and a new heart (Ezekiel 26).

I want that anointing that goes through me to touch the lives of others and their lives are made whole (Mark 16) where Jesus Christ is glorified.

But, I know that will come when I, like John the Baptizer, realize and speak forth the truth of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. There is One who comes after me but was before me; it is He of Whom I am not worthy to unlatch his sandals (Mk 1.7; Lk 3.16; Jn 1.27). I am not worthy. I am a sinner. My heart is evil before the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Oh, but for the glory of the Lord to come down into my life, your life, the life of this church, our hearts, our eyes must ever be turned heavenward. We must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. We must, like Stephen, see Jesus – because our lives were/are lived as Stephen's. We must look to Jesus, the Author and finisher of life. We must no longer have any desires. We must no longer desire to be anything or anyone – but God's little "water boy," if you will.

Scripture says that if we see God, we will die. I believe that with all of my heart. I believe that when we see God face to face, we will die to ourselves. We will no longer desire what we want, but we will see the work of the Cross of Calvary as the ultimate work to be done in us and through us.

We will desire with desire to go door to door. No, not asking what church do you attend, but – Do you know my Jesus? Have you heard that He loves you, and that He will abide to the end?

The glory of the Lord cannot come down in my life until I am abiding in Him and He in me (John 15.1-11).

I will not experience the glory of the Lord in eternity with the tribes and nations around the throne of the Lamb of God (Revelation 7.9-15) unless I am abiding in Him and He in me.

Oh, people, do you know my Jesus. Have you heard that He loves you, and that He will abide to the end. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He's my King.

(Take time to listen to the following: it is POWERFULLY DONE)

http://sermonspice.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=114

(Important to actually Listen to the late Dr. Lockeridge give this – 6.15 min)