

## **ON BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**IN THE GOSPEL FOR THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - THE DISCIPLES MEET JESUS - AND ASK HIM WHERE HE STAYS. AGAIN, THIS BECOMES A MATTER OF THE HEART. WHY? BECAUSE THE WORD USED MEANS 'ABIDE' - THAT IS: WHERE DOES YOUR HEART LIVE? - IN WHAT DO YOU PLACE YOUR HEART? TO WHAT DO YOU GIVE YOUR HEART?**

**HERE THE DISCIPLES ARE ASKING ABOUT A PHYSICAL HOUSE OR STRUCTURE; THEY ARE SPEAKING OF THE MOTIVATION AND INSPIRATION THAT GUIDES JESUS LIFE.**

**WHAT IS JESUS' ANSWER? COME AND SEE.**

**SO JESUS IS TELLING HIS DISCIPLES TO COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES WHERE HIS HEART IS - COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES TO WHAT HE GIVES HIS HEART - COME AND SEE HOW HE LOVES.**

**IN SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SAID THAT WE CAN GO INTO ANYONE OF OUR CHURCHES ON SUNDAY AND WE WILL HEAR PEOPLE PRAYING FOR THE POOR, AGAINST VIOLENCE AND WAR - AND IT REFLECTS WELL ON US - FOR AT OUR BEST WE GET IT RIGHT IN OUR HEADS.**

**THE CHALLENGE IS GETTING IT RIGHT IN OUR HEARTS. AS DR. KING SAYS "WE MIGHT HAVE OUR ELBOWS TOGETHER IN CHURCH, BUT OUR HEARTS ARE FAR APART."**

**THE HOPE FOR THE BELOVED COMMUNITY IS STILL A DREAM TO BE ACHIEVED. AS I MENTIONED LAST SUNDAY ALL GOD ASKS US TO DO, IS TO DO WHAT GOD DOES FOR US. WHAT IS IT GOD DOES? GOD CALLS US "BELOVED" - "ACCEPTED" - "SON AND DAUGHTER" - "BROTHER AND SISTER." THAT IS WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO OTHERS.**

**THE BELOVED COMMUNITY IS NOT SOME VAGUE COMPASSION - OR ABSTRACT CONCEPT, OR THEOLOGY, OR WORDS THAT ALLOW US TO KEEP OUR DISTANCE. RATHER WE ARE CALLED TO BUILD A WAY OF LIFE, WHERE EVERY PERSON IS RECOGNIZED BY US AS THE "BELOVED". THIS IS MADE CONCRETE IN SEEKING THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE "OTHERS", MAKING CONCRETE COMMITMENTS TO THOSE IN THE "OTHER" NEIGHBORHOOD OR WHO LIVE ON THE "OTHER" STREET, OR ON THE "OTHER" BORDER. AT TIMES IT MEANS MEETING ON THE CROSSBEAM OF CHRIST'S CROSS.**

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

("Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956)



"The Prophetic Faith of Martin Luther King, Jr."

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**THE BELOVED COMMUNITY IS WHAT JESUS INVITES US TO "COME AND SEE." MAY CHRIST THE SERVANT PARISH AND OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL BE A PLACE OF INVITATION AND WELCOME FOR OTHERS TO COME AND SEE WHERE WE GIVE OUR HEART AND TO WHAT WE GIVE OUR HEART EACH DAY. AND YES EACH DAY IT IS A STRUGGLE TO GET FROM OUR HEADS TO OUR HEARTS. LGAETANO.**