

“All Will Be Well” ~ October 25, 2009

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 126

I have a poster at my home in Wisconsin that consists of several peace symbols rolling along and that reads “The World Keeps on Turning and Comes Round Right.” I have come to learn, through many ups and downs, many delights and disappointments, that this statement is basically true.

There are times when it seems to take a long, long while for things to begin to turn out right and, then, there are other times when things begin to move quickly to a positive resolution. Sometimes there are sleepless nights when I finally gain some peace of mind by remembering that I will, most likely, live through the night, the sun will come up in the morning and there will be new answers to the questions I have confronted in the darkness. If I just sit and wait for things to turn around, I discover the time is longer than when I become an active partner in life. This doesn't mean that all things turn out the way I had planned for them to turn out. Very often the end result is very different from the one for which I had hoped. But, in retrospect, most things have worked out the way they should and life continues along new and challenging pathways for me.

Our world is in a terrible mess. It seems as if things will never quite “come round right.” Children are taken and used and murdered and thrown away; people find it boring to remain faithful to one another destroying families and relationships by their selfishness; many look for scapegoats to make them feel better about themselves and what they have been doing. Often we just sit and wonder what we can do about any of this, we wait for “someone out there” to change it all. In time we come to realize that our inaction works against us. We discover that our help needs to come from within if we are to manage to get back into life and make the world a better place.

Job did a lot of sitting and waiting for things to change. He was never completely alone, he had a lot of advice from his friends and his wife. But, when he finally took the puzzle of his life into his own hands he began to see more clearly what was going on and how to begin to move away from his pile of ashes and his sackcloth. Through a series of questions posed by God, Job understood his place in life and what was required of him.

In our reading for this morning there are a few words that give us a clue that he began to look outside himself and the misery of his life. These are words I think I have always missed when I would look at this piece of scripture. They are, “And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

Now, of course, I might be reading into the text things that were not originally there. But, from this little sentence it appears that as Job became more outward looking and more concerned for those around him, than for his own fate, things turned around for him and all was restored.

Perhaps, this little bit of scripture tells us that when we decide to stop sitting around feeling sorry for ourselves and when we dare have a conversation with God and when we process what it is we need to do to get our world rolling again, all will be well. When we can look outside of ourselves and offer up prayers for others our perspective changes. At

least, for a little while. It's when we sit absolutely still, frozen in worry and fear that everything seems to stop and that life becomes blocked up and we find ourselves going nowhere.

When we become bogged down in life we often look outside ourselves and decide it must be the weather that makes us feel so gloomy. Or, we might even decide that it is God's plan for our lives to make us feel so down and out. We forget that we have a role in life—we have been given the wisdom and intelligence to figure things out and to move forward. We are responsible for the way things will eventually turn out and we need to feel confident enough to get up, shake off the doldrums and move. Often this is a constant battle but we can do it.

We simply need to become grounded once again. Steve Goodier notes: "People who are not grounded lose control of the direction they are heading. It is easy to slip and slide, hoping to grasp onto something real. Or just hoping for a safe landing. Nancy SantoPietro wrote a book called FENG SHUI: HARMONY BY DESIGN. In it she says, 'In your lifetime the most sacred space you will ever need to create is the space within yourself -- the place deep within your soul where you go to find peace and serenity....' She's talking about being grounded. Finding the peace we need is really a spiritual issue. Get yourself grounded and you can navigate even the stormiest roads in peace."

We have been given a pattern for leading rewarding, enriching, grounded lives. We have been given the high priest of all high priests in Jesus, the Letter to the Hebrews tells us, the one who shows us how to put together lives that are abundant. The one who comes to us in our blindness, in our doldrums, in the depths of our despair and reminds us that our faith is what makes us well and whole.

Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road. Upon hearing that Jesus was nearby he ask that he be healed. Instead of going to where he was, Jesus called him to get up and come to him. He asked the blind man to take the initiative in the healing process. Bartimaeus did and we are told his faith healed him. In other healing stories people were told to "take up their beds and walk," to stop looking for excuses that allowed them to remain on the side lines of life, to get on with it and discover all that is wonderful and beautiful that lies before them.

The good news in all of this is that we all have the capacity to face life with its difficulties and challenges and turn things around. We need only have a measure of faith in ourselves, our abilities and in the God who always sustains us. We may sit for a while on the sidelines and give ourselves a timeout as did Job or we might jump up when we hear the words of Christ and decide to follow him as did Bartimaeus. Whatever course of action we may choose to take, there is always a time to move forward with the assurance that once, again, all will be well in our lives and in our world, because the world does, indeed, keep on turning and comes round right.

-- Amen