

Peace Moment: June 12, 2022

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Our scripture from Proverbs today is spoken by Wisdom, embodied as a woman existing from the beginning of time and through creation with God. She ends the description of her role with this declaration: "I was rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

I don't know about you, but delighting in the human race has not come easily lately. Peaceful moments have been elusive during my watching of the news or "doom-scrolling" on my phone. I've been allowing myself about 30 minutes a day; I should probably cut that back!

Wisdom is a concept that is difficult to define – it's one of those words and concepts that ultimately is defined as "I know it when I see it!" Truth is often a conjoined twin with wisdom, but we have begun blurring what facts and truth are so that's not much help to narrow down the concept.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated that "The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common." Perhaps this is a place to start. Do we see the miracle in the wondrous flight of a dandelion seed when a child blows on it? Do we recognize wisdom when we return a smile from a stranger? Can we feel delight when we see one human caring for another human?

My husband and I carry bags of provisions in our cars that can be handed to those in need at intersections. Emily, my 6-year old granddaughter, was in the car one day. As we approached the intersection, I explained what I was going to give the woman and a simple explanation of why she needed help. After we turned the corner, she said she had a good idea and shared with me that this woman could use my spare bedroom. I agreed in that way that we do when humoring small children and figured she would forget about it soon. Well, the first chance she had when she saw her parents several hours later was to say, "I have bad news and I have good news." Of course, this is the time for every grandparent to panic! She continued. "The bad news is that we saw a woman today who didn't have a home and we gave her food. The good news is that I thought she could live with Grandma."

In that moment, wisdom was not elusive and I could delight in the human race. An Israeli psychologist, Amos Tversky once said, "It is sometimes easier to make the world a better place than to prove you have made the world a better place." This may be the best path to take to bring peace to our world.

Questions for Meditation

1. Have you seen something "miraculous in the common" this week? Reach for the wonder in the moment and let that delight fill you.
2. Think about the idea of making the world a better place without having to prove it. Is this a freeing idea and if so, how might you move forward to create peace?

Prayer for Peace

CCS # 445 will serve as the perfect Prayer for Peace for this day. These words are by Shirley Erena Murray.

Wise men came journeying once, long ago, camel hooves swirling the sand dune and snow, gold in the saddlebag, myrrh in the jar, incense to honor the Child of the star.

Wise are the travelers led to move on following signs where the Christ light has shone, facing the deserts and crossing the lines, heeding no limits that culture defines.

Wise are each one of us looking for change, stargazer people, respecting the strange, inner and outer worlds open to light, centered on seeing the real and the right.

Wise ones keep journeying all through their days, bringing their gifts to the source of their praise, risking the promise with all they hold dear, seeing God's peace at the door of the year.

Amen.