

The Body of Christ

Monday, 2/28/11 – Read John 1:10-14

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: One of the central convictions of Christian Faith is that God is not aloof and distant, indeed that God has come among us and lived among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Is that the way you think of God? That God is so concerned for creation and for us humans that God would pour the whole divine self into a human life? When you think about Jesus do you have a sense that you are seeing the glory and the grace of God “in the flesh”? Or do you have problems with that idea? Write down your own thoughts.

Tuesday, 3/1/11 – Read John 1:16-18

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Think about that phrase in verse 18, “close to the Father’s heart.” Get the idea? When we look at Jesus, we are seeing the heart of God. ... Are there people who are “close to your heart”? Is there someone for whom you know you are close to their heart? How does it feel to have that kind of special place for someone? What difference does that make for you? ... Do these feelings give you some clues about Jesus’ relationship with God?

Wednesday, 3/2/11 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:27

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Writing to the fledgling church in Corinth, the apostle Paul makes this astounding assertion: you are Christ’s body. How do you think Paul meant? Is he using a metaphor? Or does he mean it literally? ... Maybe he actually meant that these people were the embodiment of Christ – just as Jesus was the Word made flesh, the embodiment of the Word of God. ... Can you entertain the idea that we, that you, are the embodiment of Christ for today? If that were true, how might that change your living?

Thursday, 3/3/11 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Paul thinks of the Christian community, the church, as Christ’s body, made up of many very different parts. In fact it is the differences that makes the body functional. ... To actually be (and function as) Christ’s body always means that we are embracing people very different from ourselves. ... When you encounter people different from yourself, what’s your initial reaction? Suspicion? Eager engagement? Cautious openness? What?

Friday, 3/4/11 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Paul pushes his understanding of Christ’s body even further: God’s Spirit is giving different “services” or functions to various people within the body. That’s really good news! Because that means that no one of us has to do everything; we can share the load among the people who are differently gifted. ... Are you good at trusting others to

fulfill the work that God has called them to? Or do you feel like you've got to do it all yourself?

Saturday, 3/5/11 – Read Romans 12:3-8

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In today's reading, Paul is again speaking of Christ's body -- of the way we are the embodiment of Christ today. When he tries to speak of the intimacy of our relationship with each other in the body, he uses an enigmatic phrase, "members one of another." Think of some others in your community of faith. Do you feel a deep, abiding connection to them? Does it seem to you that you and they are "members one of another"?

Sunday, 3/6/11 – Read John 17:20-24

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Gospel of John, chapter 17 is Jesus' prayer just before he is arrested. The language is very difficult because Jesus' prayer expresses something profound -- that God was IN Jesus and Jesus was IN God -- and that God and Jesus are IN us and we are IN God. Our human language does not easily express something so spiritually profound, but maybe Jesus is here affirming the same thing that Paul meant by referring to the church as the body of Christ. Christ is literally in us, embodied in us. We are literally to carry Christ into God's broken and hurting world today. Can you find words to express your reaction to this profound idea?

My Faith Journal, February 27, 2010

The Big Picture #7

A Full-Bodied God

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.