



Wednesday Prayer

The Holy Trinity – Answering God’s Call

And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Isaiah 6:5-8

On this upcoming Trinity Sunday, the first lesson is the calling of Isaiah to be the Lord’s prophet (Isaiah 6:1-8). In a dazzling and terrifying vision, he sees the Lord on the throne visited by angels, flying all around him proclaiming “Holy, Holy, Holy!” Isaiah’s reaction is to despair: “Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips!” But the angel touches his lips with purification and dispels all fear. Only then can Isaiah respond to the Lord’s call, “Whom shall I send?” with a resounding, “Here I am, send me!”

Around the turn of the last century, photojournalist, Jacob Riis, helped expose businesses that were exploiting children. Riis’s photographs caused an uproar of public opinion as the American people saw first-hand young kids who had been overworked on the assembly lines, factories and textile mills with little or no pay. These kids were being robbed of their childhood.

What troubled Riis the most, however, is how long it took to change public policy. As compelling as his photographs were, the abuses continued. The laws didn’t change. One day Riis visited the local rock quarry and there he found renewed hope. He was watching the stone cutter hammer away at a large piece of granite. He wrote: “When nothing seems to help, I go look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before.”

Don’t give up – was the message loud and clear. It gives me hope today as I consider the plight of children being groomed for sex trafficking. Don’t give up. Keep hammering away a message of hope for these kids. God’s word is breaking up the rocks of our soil – purifying our lips with a word we can share – so that no child should be left uncherished in a system of despair. God is purifying you for just such a time as this so that we might all come to say, “Here I am. Send me!”

Send us, oh Lord. Send me, for I am ready to answer your call to serve. Amen.

Written by Pastor John Stiles, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pine City, Minnesota.

Join us in our [2024 Cherish All Children Hybrid 5K](#) and support youth into safe relationships!