

## Thy Will be Done

Based on Psalm 107:1-32

While I attended Knox College in Toronto, I boarded one winter with a lovely lady from my parent's congregation, who thankfully, had a condo in the city. Each week in the late afternoon, I would take the subway north as far as it would go, then line up at the city bus station to wait. The bus would arrive, and without a word, twenty, thirty, forty and more would move quickly into the seats, then the aisle, and yet, another half dozen bodies would squish their way on the bus before the doors closed. Slowly we would lumber out of the station into the heart of Don Mills. Yet the whole time, it was absolutely silent. This was before the days of cell phones that could play you a movie, a game, listen to music, text your friends, or take a phone call to pass the time. No one started a conversation with their neighbor, said excuse me for stepping on toes, or even smiled. Nothing. Yet there were all different kinds of people on the bus. Young and old, students and retired, pregnant mothers and bored teens. I couldn't help but think, "Everyone one of the people on this bus has a story to tell!"

Consider for a moment all the people you have 'bumped into' or been squished on a bus with over your lifetime. People you've worked with over the years. Family. Close friends. Church acquaintances in Pew #9. The Clerk at the 7-11 where you buy your milk, the teenager who delivers your paper, the girls from the Book Club and fellow golfers you nod to at Hole 18. Some of these people you know. Some you know very well. Some you simply recognize as a familiar face in your weekly routine. I suspect there are some you like better than others, some you dislike altogether, some you avoid if you see them in the grocery store, some you will cross the street to bump into with a loud, "Hello! Great to see you again." But every one of these people, whether you like them or not; they too, have a story to tell.

The Psalmist considered all the people in his life, people he had encountered or observed through the years. As he looked about, this is what the Psalmist saw:

*Some wandered in the trackless desert and could not find their way (v3)*

...people who had lost direction, purpose, hope

*Some were living in gloom and darkness, prisoners suffering (v10)*

...people struggling against dark shadows of cynicism, feelings of unworthiness, or rebelling against the good that come with living in the light

*Some were fools (v17)*

...people so caught up in being 'religious' they had forgotten about God

*Some saw what the Lord could do, but lost courage (v23, 26)*

...people who had seen the wonder of life and Godly love, but turned their back on it, unwilling to believe it could be true.

People, just like you and I. People with complicated lives, and convoluted stories.

People, who by times, have wandered, struggled, behaved foolishly, and have turned

their back on those in need, or their own needs. People. Just like you and I. The Psalmist continued.

*Then in their trouble they called to the Lord,  
and he saved them from their distress. (v6, 13, 19, 28)*

Each and every time that these people became stuck in a physical, emotional, or spiritual corner, they called to God. And each and every time, He saved them from their distress, whatever that distress happened to be at the moment.

He lead those who wandered aimlessly through life to a place of purpose and intentionality (v7)

He broke the clutch of grief and anger and cynicism, and showed them a world that can be a good place (v14)

He gave the disillusioned, grace (v20)

He kept the fragile and frightened safe (v30)

As the Psalmist considered these amazing acts by God, he cried out again and again,  
*They must thank the Lord for his constant love ,for the wonderful things he did for them.*  
(v8, 15, 21, 31)

But did they? Did those who found direction in their life again, give thanks? Did those released from the dark shadows, cling mightily to the light? Did those who received grace humbly pray, “They Will be Done?” Did those who found safety, trust God enough to be courageous once again? The Psalmist almost scolds us. “They must see! They must see that God is at work in their lives and in their story!” But did they?

Do you find your spirit wandering?

Does pettiness and temper rule the day occasionally?

Do you struggle to believe that grace is yours to humbly accept?

Do you really trust that God’s will, will be done?

The Psalmist has some simple instructions for you.

1) Turn to God. (v6, 13, 19, 28)

2) Give thanks. (v1)

3) Repeat. (v2)

Scripture references today are taken from the Good News Bible, the bible in our rooms at Cache Creek Retreat Center, where Presbytery was held this week.