

Christmas Day Word

I don't think it is a mistake or an accident or mere poetry that John refers to Jesus as "The Word." So as our Bibles are 100 percent the words of men, written by real people. So they are also 100% God's Word, inspired by His Spirit that we might know him. So as the Word of God we read is true God and true man, so also Jesus, The Word made flesh, is true God and true man. So when we interact with God's Word in our bibles, our readings, and the verses on our hearts and minds, do we not also have some connection and interaction with Jesus?

Debates rage about what Jesus looked like. And yes, it probably isn't the blonde haired blue eyed image by the drinking fountain. But don't you see, or, not see, but hear? In his teaching in his saving action, through His Word even as he is The Word, can't you see who your Jesus is? The real one?

He never condones sin, he doesn't shirk the truth, yet he is compassionate and merciful. And do we not begin to know him? Who is your Jesus, one who is full of wrath and vengeance and bitterness? No, that isn't our Jesus. Is he a pushover, a slouch, who just wants everyone to be nice, and never say anything someone might not want to hear? No, that isn't our Jesus either. And how do we know that isn't our Jesus – because we have heard his word. Is it any wonder he teaches us that his sheep hear his voice and know him even as he knows us and gives us eternal life?

The sentiment is the same today in our epistle reading: “Long ago at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.” We have our nativities, with the baby there. Was it a cave? Was it a house with the first floor stable? What did the manger look like? All good questions, worth meditating on. But what do we *know*? We know what he has said. As it has been given to us by people who really sat at his feet and listened. We know the Word made flesh, because of the Word given to us.

Learn his voice. His boldness in the face of persecution and wrong. His merciful tenderness in response to brokenness and pain. His wisdom for your life, not that you will have a rose garden. But that you might be brave, hopeful, forgiving.

What voice would we value over the Word made Flesh? What voice or distraction of the world compares? What advertisement, what self help book, what decree? From John, “All things were made through him. In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Why listen to another? What’s a politician to that? What are the taunts of a world that rages against us compared to this Word? Again from Hebrews “He is the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the Glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature and he upholds the universe by the word of his power... superior to angels.”

What higher authority is there? What judgment is higher than his? What stronger Word than this one.

And He has spoken a word to you. That you are his in faith and baptism. That you are forgiven and washed clean of every sin. That you are loved. That you have value. And that you will be victorious over death and rise again to new life with him.

And those are some pretty tall promises. Who is to say he could ever keep them or would want to, for someone like you?

Well we can know he wants to keep them – because he came at Christmas.

Christmas, when the Word takes on flesh, is proof of his investment. He would not have come if he didn't want to save. And as for whether or not he has the power to keep these promises. Well, that's 30 some odd years later we see the evidence for that, don't we? When this child grows and, just like he said he would, dies and rises for you.

He pulled that off. Which is why we confess the very same thing the author of the Hebrews confessed, that he upholds the universe by his power. And if he can do those things, uphold the universe, each star, each planet, each molecule and quark. If he can go beyond the grave and return... If the Word made flesh is that strong, maybe his Word to you is too.

And in that, in His Word, his promises to you, we find, I think, a very merry
Christmas. Amen.