

From The Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, August 8th, Pentecost XI, Angry with God
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

The Psalmist today talks about waiting for the Lord three times. I wait, with my soul and my soul waits and the call for Israel to wait for the Lord.

This suggests that this is not a cheap and easy asking and it may take time for an answer. And the request is from a place of darkness and despair.

Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord;

So we often ask the question, will the darkness and despair ever end?

Will God ever answer the prayer? What is taking God so long?

In Ephesians we hear; *be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,* And how often I did not follow this advice, and let the sun go down on my anger. But maybe this was like all major decisions I made, I would sleep on it and think about it overnight. The fear of not taking the time to process the anger and the situation was that I was more likely to say something in haste that would escalate and make the situation worse, and in the morning be able to address the problem in a calm and rational manner. More often than not, having an understanding of the other person's point of view, and not being on the defensive and continuing to attack.

The next question which relates to my starting point; waiting for God. Can we be angry with God? God is no good to me if I can never get angry with God. I believe God has the maturity if you will, not to punish me or take my anger as an insult, but listen to my anger. The key however is not to stay angry, but give God a chance to answer your prayer and respond to your anger.

And who knows where that answer will come. More often than not it is God in the ordinary, the bread and wine and in the people we meet, where and whenever we meet them.

Bo Lozoff tells his own kind of parable; a writer and co-founder of the Human Kindness Foundation; you are driving home from a wonderfully spirit filled workshop and you stop for coffee and a snack, the person behind the counter is just an extension of the hand giving you back your change. You are killed in a car accident soon after. So the last person you interacted with you did not see as a whole person.

Maybe if you had, you may have been the answer to that person's prayer or anger at how they were feeling and had been treated that day, and helped them feel better about themselves.

Amen.