

LUKE 7: 31-35

DEVOTION

“WISDOM VINDICATES ALL OF HER CHILDREN”

And from our reading from Timothy, “Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion”. Do we have the wisdom to be vindicated by our devotion to our faith, by how we live our lives?

What is devotion? The devotion we give to God is the same as it is for any other person that we really care about, who is really important to us. We seek to learn how he thinks, what does He care about? We try to learn how he sees things. What makes Him happy, what makes Him sad? We learn these things with our hearts, then because He loves us and is truly important to us, we try to please Him. We can't be truly devoted to God without realizing how important each and

every human being is to Him. Our devotion to God brings us to a stark awareness of His love for us personally and for each and every human being.

We have heard people, perhaps someone close to us, say, “I am a spiritual person, not a religious person”. My relationship with God is between Him and me. What do they mean? That their relationship with God is personal, that they don’t believe in organized religion, or a faith that involves others? Perhaps it’s that their relationship with God is in their heads, and not their hearts?

Throughout the history of mankind, man’s relationship to God has always been both personal, and in and through community. To think that we have to work out our own salvation in fear and trembling, or that we are only responsible for ourselves, and our relationship with God is

between me and Him, is very self-centered. It clearly fits in with the current secularized ethos of societies in the west, it may be politically correct, but it is radically opposite to the guidance mankind has gotten from God for the past 8000 years, radically opposite, to Jesus' teaching, and radically opposite to Christianity.

In truth one cannot truly be a religious person without being a spiritual person, nor can one be a spiritual person without being a religious person. Both have to do with our Faith, our relationship with God, becoming devoted to Him, with our finding our center in Him, and then living in it.

When we find our center we realize that everyone else has this same center, some recognize it and others don't. We all live and move and have our being in God. We all share in God's life. God is our center whether we realize it or not. It is

in God that we are all connected. Our life is simply not about us individually but about us united in God, now and for eternity.

So how does one find His or her center? We don't, God has already found us, we accept God as our center, we accept God's love for us, then we spend our lives emptying ourselves of ourselves. Realizing that we all share in God's life we seek God in each other, in community.

Our life becomes an emptying process. We learn that if we remain full of ourselves, there is less room for God. As we empty ourselves, our spiritual and religious life becomes more important, things of God, our devotion to Him, our desire to please God takes on new meaning. God really becomes the center of our lives when we let Him. This process of letting Him, this process of emptying ourselves is our life's work, it is

as Timothy said in our reading; “Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion”. Our emptying of ourselves is wisdom vindicated by the joy and peace of God’s love in our lives.

We end up where we began, “Do you have the wisdom to be vindicated by your devotion to Jesus, to your Faith, by how you live your life?”