

SERMON - TRINITY SUNDAY - 18 MAY 2008
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

John 3:5-6 (KJV)

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Well! Here we are again at Trinity Sunday. We have celebrated the Advent and the Nativity of Christ, His death and Resurrection and we have celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Now, we celebrate all three, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity.

Again this year I am not going to try to explain the theological concepts of the Trinity and I am not going to try to give you the examples and the symbols that have been used to try to illustrate that concept.

Rather again, let us talk about life, life in the Trinity Season, ordinary time, the day to day, mundane, slogging through the mud of existence life that we all face.

Trinity Season is the time set apart in the liturgical life of the Church to help us live our everyday lives; to cope with life in the fast lane.

Most of us live lives that are much too active, too filled with activity, lives that are too busy. Most of us crowd our daily, weekly and monthly schedules with many too many events and activities.

We are too busy to relish the precious time that God has given us to enjoy the many gifts that He has provided. We are too busy so often that we can't take the time to stop and thank him.

We all have become slaves to the clock and servants of our calendar and our appointment

book.

We have forgotten how to stop and “smell the roses.”

Jesus still calls us to come with him to a “lonely place.” He still calls us, even though it is not Lent, to spend time with him in solitude and in prayer. He still calls us to stop and listen for the still quiet voice of God.

We cannot possibly begin to hear God if our lives are so crowded with our “important” or rather self-important activities to stop and listen. We cannot possibly begin to hear God’s voice if our lives are so filled with the noise that we surround ourselves with so we don’t have to really face ourselves.

Today, most of us crowd every waking moment with things to do. We all do this for many various reasons, some to feel important, some to feel needed, some so that we won’t have to confront the emptiness in our lives that we have because we do not really have a relationship with God. We all have a tendency to over-compensate our own inadequacies with over-activity.

But God calls us to a different plane, a different level of living.

God calls us to let Him fill our lives with His love, the love that passes all understanding. God calls us to let Him come and live in our souls and fill our emptiness, to erase our loneliness, to take away our need for compensating activity.

God wants us to stop and just waste time with him.

God wants us to stop and just waste time with Him because that is the only way that we can come to know him.

God wants us to stop and pray.

We heard this morning what Jesus said to Nicodemus *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

We have the active life and we have the spiritual life. When Jesus told Nicodemus the word “spirit” he used the word that was used in Genesis to describe the Spirit of God in the creation of the universe, the same word that was used in describing the Spirit that descended on the Apostles at Pentecost. This creative spirit, this creative force is given to us at our Baptism and is confirmed later by the Bishop’s laying on of hands at our Confirmation and becomes part of our very being.

If we neglect this part of our being through over-activity we are actually rejecting the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are rejecting God himself.

We are all familiar with the story of Mary and Martha, how Martha was busily being the hostess while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened, how Martha came to Jesus and asked him to tell Mary to come and help her. Jesus told Martha, ***Luke 10:41-42 (ESV)*** *"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."*

We are all both Mary and Martha in our makeup but we have the tendency to be like Martha, to be too busy to stop and sit at the feet of Jesus, to choose the best part.

But what happens when we die is what remains is the Mary part, the spiritual part of our lives, the active part gets planted with us.

Our activity stops. Our over-activity stops. Then, which is the most important. Jesus has already told us which is the “good portion.” Jesus has already told us that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We Christians are called to a different life, an eternal life. We are not called to be part of

the world but to overcome the world. This also includes how we live our day-to-day, day in and day out lives, either at the feet of the world or at the feet of Jesus.

Amen.