

Trinity Sunday
Year C

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has filled scores of books and we still don't comprehend it. Of the many attempts, most have failed miserably and none have given us anything we might be able to grasp. Basically, the Trinity is a concept beyond explanation. However, each of the Persons of the Trinity has a unique role and we can look at these.

In the reading from the Gospel according to John, we get a short introduction to each Person of the Trinity. First, there is God the Creator, whom Jesus calls His Father. Then, of course, we have Jesus, the Redeemer. These two Persons of the Trinity are fairly easy to understand. We know their roles as shown throughout the Bible. We might consider the statement Jesus makes about the ability of the disciples to handle all He has to say very fitting for today.

There is much we cannot comprehend. However, Jesus does give us hope in His explanation of the role of the Spirit. Jesus says that the Spirit will lead us into all truth. At least one role of the Spirit is to open our minds to God's truth. The title, "Spirit of Truth" we find here is unique to John. It never appears in the Hebrew Scriptures, nor in the other writings in the New Testament. So, why does John use it?

Truth, at least in our culture, appears to be relative. We find it difficult to agree on any fundamental truths. In fact, we constantly hear of fake news and truths that don't match facts. However, the truths we learn from the Spirit of Truth are God's truths - those truths that surpass human input. These are truths we can hold on to as we try to navigate this world.

One of the primary truths we have is that God sent Jesus into the world. John tells us that the Spirit will glorify Him. This will come through the acceptance of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, sent that we might have abundant life. This acceptance requires us to look beyond ourselves - to remove ourselves from the concept of ME. In today's culture, we tend to look at everything from the standpoint of "what will this do for me" or "what will I get out of this." It was not that long ago that we constantly heard about the Me generation. However, this concept is totally foreign to the Triune God.

The Trinity underscores the fact that every action of God is done in community. There is no selfishness in the Trinity. As it is written here, the Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus, what God has shared with Him, and gives that to us. The Three Persons of the Trinity work together to give us what we need.

Our role is to take that which the Spirit opens to us, God's truth, and share it with others in a manner in which Jesus is glorified. How are we to do that? One word of caution - how we communicate God's truth through our actions must not negate the content of that truth. As the

old adage states, sometimes our actions speak louder than our words. People cannot hear what we say because our actions overpower our message.

None of us, least of all me, has all of the answers. There was a time when people looked to the clergy for the answers to all life's questions. I thank God that is not the expectation today. However, each of us have some portion of the truth that we can share. As we explore the actions of the Trinity together, we can begin to see how God intends the Holy Spirit to reveal the hidden treasures of God's kingdom to us.

Will we ever have a complete understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity? No. As Paul states in his first letter to the Corinthians, we only know in part. However, we are promised that the Spirit of Truth will lead us into all truth. As we discuss this concept of the Trinity together, God will help us believe even that which we cannot see.