

Day 222 – Wednesday, October 28

As I sit at my desk looking around for inspiration, I notice a saying that could be put on an outdoor sign: “Sometimes you need to talk to a two year old just so you can understand life again.” As adults it is easy to complicate things. We see insinuations, hidden agendas, masked images in everything that is said around us. We are constantly trying to figure out, “What are they really saying.” A two year old doesn’t have this problem. Everything is taken at face value. There are no hidden agendas. In fact they are the picture of innocence...until they are taught that there are sinister things out there. “Don’t talk to strangers, Don’t play with _____, always look two ways before you cross there street.” Now I am not saying these are bad things, we need to protect our children, because there is real danger out there, not to mention some real creeps; but at the same time, every time we instill one of these sayings, we take away some of their innocence. We teach them to be prejudiced, we instill in them that no one can be trusted. They learn from us, what to love and hate, fear or enjoy. I will admit that this is important when it comes to this world...but...what about the next world.

If a child grows up not trusting anyone...why would they trust God? If we have taught them to be prejudiced against anyone who is different, will they also be prejudiced against Jesus, who is Arab, and from a foreign country. This is why it is important to talk to a two year old from time to time—we get that pure unadulterated wisdom. That wisdom that easily sees the presence of God, the presence of love in all things. Forgiveness comes easily. Betrayals are quickly forgotten. Every adult is seen as an equal, no one is better than the next. Maybe we need to be learning from them what unconditional love means. Maybe we should make them the generals of our armies, so instead of blowing Billy up, we might actually give him something to eat, something to wear, and invite him over for dinner.

Maybe this is what Jesus is saying when he says,

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Rev 21:1-5)

Jesus does not say he will make all new things. He says he will make all things new. Including our spirits...to reflect the spirit of an unspoiled two year old.

In the light of eternity, we’re here for a very short time, really. We’re here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein