

ASH WEDNESDAY – YEAR A

Today Jesus calls us to focus on what truly matters most in life; our relationship with God. In each of the examples that Jesus gives us today he calls us to act in secret, so that only the Father will see what we do.

Why is it that Jesus calls us to act secretly ? The answer I would suggest is this... When we seek the admiration of the world, we are telling God that he alone is not enough for us; whereas, if we hide our good deeds from the world we affirm that God's love and God's approval is all that we need.

Speaking of our relationship with God the Song of Solomon proclaims, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine..." (6:3) Today Jesus is inviting us to enter into such loving intimacy with the Father. The same intimacy that he rejoiced in. By doing so, our good deeds are transformed into 'gifts of love', offered to our beloved.

In every relationship the most intimate moments are private moments. These are the moments in which we truly connect with the other. While the love of a newly married couple is professed publicly, it only finds its true expression in the everyday intimacy of their shared life.

On our spiritual journey it is primarily through a life of prayer that we achieve this intimacy with God. In the Book of Revelation we read, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you and eat with you, and you with me." (Rev 3:20) The door on which Jesus is knocking is the door of your heart and it is prayer that enables you to open this door so that he may enter in.

God's pleads with us today through his prophet Joel:

Rev. Kevin Webb

“Come back to me with all your heart ...” (Joel 2:12)

Tenderly he speaks to us:

“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.” (Song of Solomon, 2:10).

In response, this Lent, may we, “walk humbly with (our) God,” (Micah 6:8), and in response to his supplication may we cry aloud with our psalmist, “A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 50/51:10)