

February 27, 2010

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

There's an ancient story about Zusia, a Rabbi.

Zusia was distraught one day. When his friends asked him what was wrong, Zusia replied, "I have had a vision. In my vision I discovered that God will one day ask me about my life."

His friends were puzzled. "Zusia, you are pious. You are scholarly and humble. You have helped so many people. What question about your life could be so terrifying that you would be frightened to answer it?"

Zusia turned his gaze to heaven. "I have learned that God will not ask me, 'Why weren't you a Moses, leading your people out of slavery?'"

His friends persisted. "So, what will He ask you?"

"And I have learned," Zusia sighed, "that God will not ask me, 'Why weren't you a Joshua, leading your people into the promised land?'"

One of his friends approached Zusia and placed his hands on Zusia's shoulders. Looking him in the eyes, the friend demanded, "But what will He ask you?"

"God will say to me, 'Zusia, there was only one thing that nothing in creation could have prevented you from becoming.' God will say, 'Zusia, why weren't you Zusia?'"

We live in a copycat culture in which we are continually asked or expected to become someone or something that we are not. We look around at others who are attractive and successful and (seemingly) happy and decide we should be like them. And then we believe we are a failure when we cannot.

Today's Scripture reading warns us about dismissing the gifts we have been given by God and trying to be someone else. Using the image of a human body, we're told we shouldn't try to be an "ear," instead of being the best "eye" we can be.

Christian life does involve change and transformation, maturity and growth. In Christ we are a new creation. But it is God who transforms. It is God who supplies gifts and abilities. And it is by God's grace, through Jesus Christ, that we discover who we really are.

In prayer today, ask God to show you who you are. Acknowledge and accept the gifts you have been given and stop trying to be someone else. Give thanks for the gifts you have been given and trust that God will use you -- and your gifts -- for the transformation of the world.

Pray for pastors, worship leaders, teachers, musicians, and others who serve God. Ask God to prepare your heart for Sunday School and Worship tomorrow.