

March 22, 2010

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

"For the message about the cross is foolishness ..." 1 Corinthians 1:17

A fool is someone who acts unwisely: someone who is silly. Nobody likes to be called a fool. Nobody likes to think that what they have done is foolishness, and none of us would be likely to describe God as foolish. It sounds absurd and even a bit heretical.

Yet Paul (the writer of 1 Corinthians) says his ministry of proclaiming the message of the cross is foolishness. He's not calling God foolish, but he says that from a human perspective, the message of Jesus' death on a cross doesn't seem like good news. The paradox of the Christian message is that what seems to be the ultimate display of weakness -- an innocent man hanging on a cross between two thieves -- is actually the ultimate display of power. It is the "power of God." On the cross God redefines strength, power, and wisdom. The cross challenges us to re-think our definitions of strength, power, and wisdom. On the cross we see God, the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of the universe at work. Good Friday is Good News.

During the next two weeks, the cross will loom larger and larger as we approach Good Friday. Don't let the cross simply be an ornament for the church sanctuary or a piece of jewelry to wear around your neck. Let it be the power of God.

Pray for courage to be a fool for Christ. Ask God to help you share the Good News of Good Friday.