

March 23, 2010

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

One of the most succinct descriptions of Jesus' message and earthly ministry is found in Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." The word "repent" has been described in a number of ways, including "to have a change of heart" or "to make a change in direction." But it also means to "change your mind."

Paul, the writer of both today's Scripture reading and the quote from Romans, says that we should allow God to renew our minds and be transformed by the grace of God. He says that we should "be of the same mind" and should "let the same mind be in [us] that was in Christ Jesus." In one tightly packed paragraph he calls the church to unity and to submission, because, he says, the mind of Christ is revealed in Jesus' death on the cross.

According to Philippians 2, Jesus' death on the cross was an act of self-giving and humility. He "emptied" himself so that God's will could be done through him.

So, in addition to believing that Jesus' death is part of God's wondrous plan of salvation, we discover that the cross is an example for Christian life. When we have the mind of Christ, we empty ourselves for the sake of others and God's will is done through us.

Spend some time reflecting on the cross today. Think about Jesus' example of obedience, humility, sacrifice, and self-giving. How fully have you been transformed by the renewing of your mind? Is the same mind in you that was in Christ Jesus?

In prayer, empty yourself in the presence of God, and ask God to fill you with the mind of Christ.