



Luke 10:21–24

21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. 22 ‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except

the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’ 23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’

Reflection

(Today’s reflection is given by Craig Tubman)

Before pursuing ministry as a full time vocation I studied and worked briefly as a history teacher. There are so many moments that one can say defined our world

and the study of these events are fascinating. The rise and fall of the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans. The impact of democratic governments, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the invention of the printing press, the impact of war, the mastering of human flight, space travel, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the birth of the internet. There are so many moments that one can say define our world.

I wonder if many of us would place the life of Jesus in this category?

The end of our passage today has Jesus declaring,

‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see

what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’

The Son of God, the divine in human flesh, the eternal walking amongst his creation – if true – surely this is the moment in human history? I imagine Jesus there at creation, with the Father and the Spirit, designing and speaking everything into order. I imagine Jesus there as Adam first meets Eve and humanity flourishes in the creation made for them. I imagine Jesus’ heartbreak as the creature turns away from the creator and experiences the dislocation of identity and the impact of sin. I imagine Jesus waiting for the day when he can make things right, waiting for the Father to give the nod.

Now this time has come. Having just sent the seventy-two to declare the coming of the Son of God and the reign of God's kingdom we are told Jesus was 'full of joy through the Holy Spirit'. Finally the time has come for him to show the extent of his love for creation and to rescue us. Finally the time has come for God to be present amongst us and show us all the way.

Surely this is the moment in human history that outshines them all.

The language of Jesus here makes it clear that God himself can only be known if he makes himself known. And so the Father has sent the Son. They know each other intimately and so it is through the Son that the Father will be revealed. But the added insight Jesus gives us here is that the

Father won't be bound by our laws of status and expectation. "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

These words remind me of those written by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians,

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 1 Cor 1:20–21

In other words, what both Jesus and the Apostle affirm is the grand task of knowing

God is not limited to the academic elite, nor is it limited to the 'religious'. From a 5-year-old child to a doctor of philosophy anyone can come to know the God who has given them life because the knowledge is not based on their great wisdom but on God's desire to make himself known. And he has done this through the Son Jesus to all.

All though to be fair, Jesus goes one step further to say God has 'hidden' this knowledge from the wise. What does this mean? I take it Jesus is warning us that if we think we come into a knowledge and relationship with God through our own strength of intellect, we will never find him. For he is known by revelation not by inner reflection. We must look outwards to the Son – the son who gives up his life for others to truly know God.

The entry into life with this God is humbling and yet maybe that's the point. It's incredible to think this rag tag group of twelve that Luke writes about got to see and speak and walk with the one that Isaiah, Ezekiel, King David and others only dreamed they may one day see.

For you and I, what could be more important than God touching our world and making himself known? I do love history. I loved teaching it. But for me I had to move into speaking full time about the greatest historical event of all and so these days I share and converse and encourage people in knowing and following Jesus.

Think & Pray

Why not take some time today to consider where Jesus sits in your own life. Does he have the highest place or does he feel more like a side project? Do you identify as a follower of him and seek to know him and the Father more or has there grown a disconnection between your sense of self and your loving heavenly father?

Why not reflect on these things and bring them to God in prayer?