

Sermon Notes
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So many voices...

And so many people ready to take advantage of the buzz...

In Jesus Christ Superstar there's a song called: *What's the Buzz*

Some of the Lyrics are:

Apostles: What's the buzz...tell me what's a happening...

Jesus says,

Why should you want to know?

Don't you mind about the future?

Don't you try to think ahead?

Save tomorrow for tomorrow;

Think about today instead.

That could have come from this morning's first reading, as Paul writes to the Thessalonians, probably in the mid 50's CE. Jesus has been gone for a while and people are still looking for "the buzz."

Is this the Messiah? (A charismatic prophet – there were many)

What's that sign over there? (an eclipse or supernova, maybe)

What that illness for? Is this part of the end...apocalypse, revelation, end time?

Paul tells the folks in Thessalonica, "Look, trust us. Don't get distracted by all this other stuff. Just stay faithful to the traditions you've been taught. He might have just said:

Why should you want to know?

Don't you mind about the future?

Don't you try to think ahead?

Save tomorrow for tomorrow;

Think about today instead.

That seems to be the question: “Why do we want to know?”

What is it about knowing that is so important to us. I’m not talking about the way in which we “know” God with the inner workings of Spirit.”

I’m talking about the need to know things to the degree that if we don’t – it drives us nearly bonkers.

So we drive ourselves further and further seeking, exploring, discovering...which is fine and important, but there is a step before that – a profound one that I think even exceeds one of Thoreau’s most oft quoted verses from Walden:

"Direct your eye right inward and you'll find a thousand regions in your mind yet undiscovered. travel them, and be expert in home-cosmography "

The step that places the “thousand regions in your mind” in proper perspective is to first know oneself as a child of God, a Creator, Higher Power – whatever one chooses. Because that’s the plus one. That way informs everything else

It is everything – well +1

Let me explain. There was Jesus in Luke’s gospel this morning being tested again by the Sadducees. They’re questioning him and challenging him on the law and the traditions. And Jesus answers their questions about the laws of marriage and inheritance...he takes them another step.

Jesus says to them that they are children of the age. Worried about marriage, when there is nothing about marriage that makes it a requirement to be a child of God, and heir to the resurrection. Jesus takes their need to know and then challenges them with their lack of knowing faith. He point out that they simply cannot know.

Think about today, instead. Know thyself...as a child of God.

Or even, get over it.

And that is the plus one.

When I taught math, I loved creating a desire to know – it helps to learn, but in this sense. The mind is programmed to solve problems. So a well placed conundrum within reach of the students to question but a bit beyond their knowledge – is the way many teach.

One of my questions at some point during each year had to do with the illusion of things, such as time, space, money, etc. Sooner or later we would get to the topic of a counting system that goes on forever...toward infinity. They like that answer, because it was an answer. "Infinity." "Forever."

And then I would ask, "Ok, then answer me this. Is infinity the biggest number? Invariable they'd say, "Yes." Is forever forever? Yes!

Then I'd ask, "What about infinity... +1? Isn't that bigger than infinity? What about forever +1 microsecond? Isn't that bigger than forever?

Mathematicians and others address these in formulas I like to think of as -1. ☺

And today, I see the +1 as God. It's the all we know, the traditions, the predictions, the explorations, the time, the universe the all +1.

It's the +1 that is the step that has God saying: "Trust in me." Do whatever you feel called to, explore, ponder, write great books, if you wish...but do it all for fun...because once you know me,

you have all you need... +1.

It is, maybe, why the answer God gave to Moses when asked God's name was "I Am" – or he might have just said...call me +1.

May +1 be with you all.