

From the Little Heart as we walk together...



My meditation and reflection today has come from a single word: **Wonder**. What in the world would this have to do with anything, one might think? Well, wonder as used in Scripture was not simply to wonder as in “I wonder what is for supper tonight.” No, rather we saw that all who were present when the shepherds arrived wondered about what had been revealed about Jesus. This was no kind of shallow wondering. In order to truly wonder at such beautiful things as the Birth of Christ, God’s creation, the Love God has for us, and so forth, one must grow in littleness, simplicity, openness, trust, confidence, and abandonment. If we are too preoccupied worrying, can we wonder? If we are concerned with analyzing and overanalyzing each situation instead of viewing it simply as God has given it to us, can we wonder? If we lack confidence in God’s goodness, can we wonder? If we cling to our will and have not abandoned ourselves to God, can we wonder?

In answer to this I say that no, we cannot truly wonder if we lack confidence, trust, openness, littleness, simplicity, and abandonment. Our being must be ordered towards God and our hearts seeking Him if we are to wonder at the goodness He gives to us. Often it is easy to get caught up in the troubles of the world and overlook all the little and beautiful things that a child notices. Children walk outside and see the little bee pollinating the flower. They watch the bee work; they wonder or are fascinated by it. This little bee is one that an adult or one preoccupied with many things may step on, failing to notice it and the work it is doing. As we grow older and see what the world presents as “more important,” we begin to lose our childlikeness and simplicity that allows each to wonder at even the smallest of God’s creation.

So it is with grace. When one becomes too worried, complex, closed off, lacking in trust and confidence, and fails to abandon their will to God’s Will, that little bee, that little grace is easily overlooked and stepped on or over. Lack of simplicity simply kills grace. Why? Well, if we are occupied by trying to understand grace, thus attempting to add a level of complexity beyond the understanding of the human mind, we overlook the simple gift offered to us. If we overlook the gift of grace, then we cannot receive it. If we cannot receive the gift, we cannot use the gift. When we do not use the gift, this grace offered is lost. God has not asked that we understand each gift given us; rather He asks that we submit to His Will and use what has been given us for the Glory of God. Simplicity and all the above areas one must grow in are a means through which one becomes childlike, and in this way of childlikeness, one relies more completely on God. They then notice the little graces God gives, they wonder at these graces in simplicity and humility, and they take these graces to heart. Upon taking the graces to heart, they act on each grace received no matter how great or small. The little child that wonders at God and His grace receives more than the one who has lived many years yet stepped on the little bees pollinating the flowers time and time again. Plants that are not pollinated do not bear fruit.

Thus, we must not fail to become so little and childlike once more that we wonder at the little bee and the graces that allow our plants to bear fruit, our flowers to grow, our vineyards to feed to poor. What is the use if we reach the end only to find our plants dead, the poor hungry yet with no food to eat, and the vineyard no longer full of the life that once was? What shall we have to give upon finding little to nothing left? We ought to wonder, and we ought to do so simply and joyfully, just as little children!

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Hicks