

“Consider the Lilies”

I am frazzled and harassed, hectically moving through life; trying to make my mark, to leave behind some trace of myself to be remembered/noticed even in the church.

Consider the Lilies (Matthew 6:28) and so I look at this blade of Grass and listen to God. The grass moves in the breeze as if stirred and moved by the Spirit of God. It knows its time and when it is right it turns green, and sends forth shoots, occupying its place in the world holding on to the earth from which it draws its sustenance, moving in the breeze from which it draws its breath (cleansing the air, renewing it as it goes) doing its work of making alive that which does not live creating. Unconscious of itself not self- important. When it is bruised, it continues its labor; when it is cropped it does not complain. It carries on unaware of the sustenance it has provided for another, and having fulfilled its purpose of scattering the life that is in it to new places that grass may grow elsewhere in the world.

In its time, it comes to flower. The strain of gravity pulling on the hillside, the continual cropping adding to its stress, the disruption of the ground having made a place where it, the most hardy of God’s plants, can grow. Its flower is not large and perfect as grown in a garden. It is small and seemingly insignificant. But when seen by us along with the abundance of its neighbors of many kinds, it is the most beautiful sight in God’s creation. The flower draws the bugs, which while spreading the pollen also take of the flowers life, its gift of nectar. They may use the plant cruelly, but in their visiting, life goes on, and the next generation is begun. The gift of life is scattered to other places. When the seasons change and the cold comes, it does not complain. It knows that it needs this season of rest to be renewed. As always, its roots hold fast to the earth from which it draws life.

O God, teach me the lesson of the grass of the field. Root me deep and secure in you, from which my life comes. May I find meaning simply doing that for which you created me. May I lay aside self-importance and rejoice that you are served and seen. May I learn the rhythms of life and come to know the seasons of your plan. May I be stirred by your spirit. May I go about my task of co-creation that others may find life in you and your grace be spread to new places. May I not lament the times of trial or hardships that are part of life, but simply carry on in your plan. Perhaps when others see the life and flower of all my kin (Your church !) they will be drawn to you and in wonder, seek to live in your plan as well. You say to us, consider this blade of grass and listen to God. “Consider the Lilies...”

Pastor David