

Bulletin Article for Fourteenth Sunday in OT A
July 5, 2020

What are the images that come to your mind when you think about God?

Over time there have developed many images that try to put out a description of who God is. Some of these images have “come to life” on the big screen in the movies. Some of these images have been woven into the storyline of famous books. The Chronicles of Narnia would be one example of a series of books that have woven in the story deep theological themes that present characters in the story with God-like qualities or characteristics. And, of course, there is Sacred Scripture which is God’s Self-Revelation to the world. So, while images of God have come to us through the imagination of writers and theologians, God has actually *given* us a Self-Portrait, if you will, to keep us from having to guess too much.

So...what are the images of God that come to *your* mind? From your experiences of God/faith in your life, what words or images come to mind?

Do words like “easily imposed on”, “submissive”, “long-suffering” come to mind? How about “gentle”, “quiet”, “forbearing”; “peaceable”? Perhaps this latter grouping seems a little more acceptable if we had to choose. All these words are words used by the Oxford Dictionary to describe the word, “meek”. And “meek” is how God is described in our Gospel this weekend.

In our Matthean Gospel reading we hear some verses that sound very Johnine. Jesus declares that only the Father knows the Son, and only the Son knows the Father, and those whom the Son wishes to reveal God. So after this declaration of the special Union and Oneness of the Father and the Son, Jesus calls ALL to Himself and describes Himself (and therefore God) as one who is “meek and humble of heart”. The meek and humble heart of Jesus who is God invites us ALL to bring to Him all of our burdens and trials in life and in this powerfully meek and humble heart to find rest and peace.

This image of God as being “meek and humble” is certainly worth letting sink into our hearts and minds deeply. It may not be the “first” image that comes to mind when we try to describe God, but as our Scripture teaches us, our response to the meek and humble heart of Jesus’ invitation to turn everything over to Him will be the only way for us to find peace.