



Thoughts On the Journey

Christ, by his living, dying, and rising, has cut a pathway for us to the heavenly sanctuary.

Early Monday morning this past week, I embarked on a journey that took me south. It is a journey that I knew I would make some day – a journey where I would have to face my past, present, and future all related to a child that I made an adoption plan for 36 years ago. It is a day I have waited for and, at the same time, a day that came with unease because of the unknowns that accompanied it. Liz and I had a reunion eighteen years ago, but because of our life circumstances, the reunion was short-lived. Now, it was time for the real healing to begin and healing can be very hard work, especially if you are the person who is ultimately responsible for the hurt.

Since prayer is my go-to for everything in my life, I was looking forward to embarking on this 10 hour drive. I would be confined to my car with God and it was an opportunity for extended silence in the hopes that I could hear what God wanted from me and what he wanted for Liz. Ironically it was the same focus of my prayers 36 years ago.

The first 3 hours of the drive, consisted of me doing all the talking. (no surprise) My mind was consumed with a frenzy of questions, re-living the past, trying to remember details, searching for words that would help her to understand the love that was at the heart of my choice for her life. My texts and conversations with my daughter, Liz, before leaving to see her, indicated that perhaps her take on my choices differed wildly from mine.

My prayer: Dear Lord, you were there for me thirty-six years ago and for all the years that have followed. You are the great Healer, will you be with me now? More importantly, will you be with HER now?

This week, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord. It is a feast that speaks to us of the relationship that Christ has with all those he loves. Because we are in union with Christ, his ascension is also our ascension. He entered heaven and sits at the right hand of his Father, so now Christ's access is also our access. It's an amazing mystery!

In reflecting on this feast, I can't help but think of the apostles and the opportunity they had to walk the earth with our Lord and share in a friendship with him. You would think Jesus' ascending to heaven and leaving the earth, would leave a tremendous void. Quite the contrary: they returned to Jerusalem with joy. They trusted that Jesus would be with each of them more intimately (as he promised) now that he has ascended to his Father.

And “...they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.”

So, here the apostles stand facing their past, present, and future with Christ. It is their trust in his ever presence that helped them move forward. I can personally relate to where they may have been on this day that the Lord ascended and related it to my own journey.

Every mile I traveled the Lord spoke to me in the magnificence of the mountains, in the glory of his skies, in the whisper of a passing rain. It dawned on me that the culmination of prayers all these years was clothing me in the mantle of his peace and by the time I saw Liz I was ready to be an instrument of his grace. He instilled the words in my heart so that I could deliver a message of love and healing to my daughter. In turn, Liz delivered a message of love and forgiveness to me.

It is our Lord's ascending that assures us that Christ lives to intercede for us, covering our sins and defects, helping us to navigate our way through the trials and challenges of life, giving us hope and healing that is quite awe-inspiring.

As Liz and I stood atop a mountain in North Carolina, I looked out on layer after layer of mountains, one more beautiful than the other. As the clouds made their way across the sky, it changed the landscape like a kaleidoscope: its rolling shadows reinventing the scene. Isn't that the way life is? If we are patient and wait for the light of Christ to transform the scene - to transform us, he will answer us in his time and in his way. On this Feast of the Ascension, I give thanks for God's goodness and the access that Christ has given us to the divine. I give thanks for the way he reveals that he is listening. I am grateful for the many ways he speaks when we trust enough to listen. I am grateful for his loyalty to me as his daughter. I am grateful for all this and much more...

