

Living Lent | Day 19

Become God's Dream Partner

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:17–19 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

We are all on a journey to wholeness. The difference between being whole and having a hole in our soul is simply a "W". A "W" for worship. The question is, what story do you worship? What story do you choose to be filled by? It's your choice. Choose well.

The passage Matthew 5:17-19 is not only an affirmation that Jesus is fulfilling the stories told during the time of Moses, but an invitation by God for us all to do the same. To strive to be more like Jesus, to live a life of righteousness and abundant living. As God's children, God's extensions on Earth, we ultimately all share the same story, God's story. And when we say yes to that story, we realize that all our individual stories- regardless of our unique journeys- connect, reflect, and point to that one story. And so, we are invited to live authentically into that story, a story that God reveals to us as a dream for our lives.

Beloved Archbishop Desmond Tutu said that before we can become God's partners in enacting this dream, we must know what God wants for us, what God's dream is for us. "I have a dream," God says, "Please help Me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious

counterparts, where there will be more laughter, joy and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing.” (God Has a Dream, Doubleday 2005 p.20). This is God’s dream for us. Let us embody it! Every day we wake, we have an opportunity to embrace this dream and make it a reality. In every interaction we have, even with those we struggle to love, in every choice we make, hard or easy, we have the power to create one part of that dream. Lent is an opportunity to pause, reflect and choose to say yes to God’s dream again. God has put into our very being, in our unwavering dignity, everything we need to fulfill this dream. Every ounce of courage, confidence, bravery, joy, peace, willingness, intelligence we may need, we already have. We just need to find it for ourselves. Become God’s dream partner.

A prayer: God, may your dream for me become my life. Amen.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is the oldest black Episcopal Church in the state of Georgia. In 1880, some fifteen years after the Civil War, a small group of Blacks organized a Sunday School in Atlanta. This small group later petitioned the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia for status as a Mission. The petition was granted, and the Mission became St. Paul’s which held services in an upstairs loft in the West End area of Atlanta. After moving to its present location, today, it continues its ministry with the mission ‘to Proclaim God’s love, justice, and hope through the witness of generations of resilient faith in Jesus Christ, and the worship and traditions of the Episcopal Church, seeking to make disciples and to draw our neighbors into a relationship of love, strength and hope.’ Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright, is an Atlanta-based author, speaker and passionate advocate for authentic living. A former college professor at NYU and Spelman College, she currently serves as the Director of Enrollment Management at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School in Atlanta and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Emory School of Medicine. She is married to Robert C. Wright, the Episcopal Bishop of Atlanta and they are parents to 5 children.

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