

"What Does Heaven Feel Like?"

Isaiah 25: 6-9
Luke 12: 4-12
6 February, 2011

What does heaven feel like?

Haven't the foggiest.

We can paint pictures and evoke sensations.

We can suggest.

As does Isaiah with this lovely painting of hope and promise. Remember, these are a people whose lives are more like Egypt today, Iraq today – social torment and unrest, fear and battle with neighbors, a life of disappointment, defeat, scarcity.

What will be? Abundance. Bounty. A feast. Wine and fat things. How beautiful to a people starving.

What will be? Peace among the nations. All nations join the feast. This is no exclusive gathering. Not only Israel. But all gather as equals. Israel as the chosen nation gets to invite them. No more enemies.

What will be? The veil of grief and mourning that we have worn too often is now removed. Instead is the rapture of the divine which we behold with uncovered upturned faces. God uses this this same veil – once a symbol of our sorrow and loss – to wipe our tears from our cheeks.

What does heaven feel like?

We can paint pictures from Isaiah's feast to puffy clouds and halos to getting to do forever whatever brought us joy on earth or big spoons, but I'm guessing we'll just have to wait find out. Going to have to wait to find out.

Yes, wait.

Not good at waiting? Tough. Work at it.

And I hope you'll have to wait a long, long time to find out.

In a world too greedy for instant gratification, instant success, instant reward, there is nothing instantaneous about heaven. You have to wait. You don't get everything you want right away.

But that's okay. Instant stuff usually isn't worth it. Besides, overnight delivery always costs more.

- The difference between fast food nuggets and a pork roast rubbed with fresh rosemary that takes hours to sizzle in the oven.
- The difference between instant coffee and Honduran beans ground and brewed in a French Press
- The difference between hitting the lottery and earning your success
- The difference between being given a trophy for just playing on the team and really winning a tournament.
- The difference between a player-piano and taking the time and making the effort to learn to play the piano yourself.
- The difference between hot house flowers and roses cultivated in the garden
- The difference between a date and a wife
- The difference between demanding babies (gimme gimme now) and self-disciplined adults

The best things are those for which we must learn to wait. Sometimes it is the anticipation that adds to the excitement:

- Christmas morning.
- Wedding nights
- The long awaited vacation.
- A hard earned graduation.
- Waiting for that letter to arrive to tell you you got accepted.

In the meantime, we carry on grateful, hopeful, fearlessly that we will someday find out.

In the meantime we prepare and get about taking care of today.

In the meantime we practice patience.