

November 7, 2021

**“Who You Calling A Saint?”  
Sermon by Rev. Susan Drake**

*Colossians 1:9-12*

*For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from this glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the one, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

*Mark 12:38-44*

*As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”*

*He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

**Sermon “Who You Calling A Saint?”**

The original meaning of the word saint in Greek is holy. Someone holy, set a part or particularly close to God. Through the ages this word has traveled through time with people and institutions attaching their own meaning to it. In many religious traditions it is a name given only to people who have died and lived exemplary lives and in other traditions that person must have performed miracles etc.

But in Colossians and in Mark we see that even the ordinary person can share in the inheritance of the saints of light. Jesus lifts up the holiness of the widow. She gave all that she could give and she gave it with humility, not making a show of it like the scribes.

The Colossians passage says that we all have that ability to be close to God, to grow in our faith, to access the power that gives us patience and endurance and joy. In other words, we are all holy. We are all consecrated by the Spirit and by life itself to live a life close to God.

All that hinders us is our own belief in ourselves. We have to own that sacredness that we are born with and not let anyone tell us differently and not let our failures or our heartbreaks detract from that original blessing.

Fundamental to my understanding of God is that we are born with that connection, that holiness, that closeness and sacredness to God. But this world and the broken people of this world can erode it everyday. Our work is to restore it in ourselves and in our fellows.

I am convinced that once a person knows their worth to God then their actions will follow, they will no longer be hurt people that hurt people, they will no longer need to control others, to put down others, to hate, or be filled with insatiable greed.

The only thing that can truly satisfy the human heart is love. The love of God, our love for each other and ourselves. Some of us get to know that early, some not until the end, but it is the life lived in that knowledge that is a far better life.

A couple of members and I have been going through old documents and pictures, culling out what is not truly significant and what is an important part of the church's history. I have really enjoyed this. What a beautiful history you have.

So rich with mission, music, food and fun. I felt transported back in time when the church was teeming with families and fellowship. When we had pancake breakfasts, women's guild and men's fellowship. But my favorite part of this experience has been watching these two members I was working with. They would discover an old photograph of someone from long ago and a look of love and memory would cross their face. They would say "Ohhh that's so and so, oh they were such a good person." I could tell they were talking about one of their saints of light, someone that loved and shaped them in their faith.

You don't have to work miracles or give a bunch of money to be a saint. You just have to open your heart and own that you are loved by God beyond any limits of time and space. Own that you are loved way beyond the limits of your own belief in yourself or the belief of others.

Every act of kindness, every act of love you do is a sacred one in the realm of God. May you feel that power and that love within you. May you commit yourself to being that person that when someone 50 years from now comes across a photo of you, you put that look of love on their face as they remember you as a saint of light. May it be so for us all. AMEN

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YOUR  
HEART  
AND OWN  
THAT  
YOU  
ARE LOVED  
BY GOD"

Rev. Susan Drake



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