O Sapientia

I cannot think unless I have been thought,

Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.

I cannot teach except as I am taught,

Or break the bread except as I am broken.

O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,

O Light within the light by which I see,

O Word beneath the words with which I speak,

O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,

O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,

O Memory of time, reminding me,

My Ground of Being, always grounding me,

My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,

Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,

Come to me now, disguised as everything.

Malcolm Guite

Wisdom.

What is wisdom?

So often we look for knowledge, we look to be the smartest in the room.

We try to know a lot of stuff.

And we as a culture, sometimes see knowledge as the same as wisdom.

There are a lot of very smart people, who do not have wisdom.

You can know a lot about a lot of things, and still be lost and not know what to do with that knowledge.

We forget that religion seeks wisdom, not just knowledge.

It is good to know things, and in the human experience, it is good to seek knowledge.

Science and good science is a good thing.

But so is the pursuit of wisdom.

So often we feel like we have to pick one or the other.

That religious pursuits counteract scientific pursuits.

I completely beg to differ.

What religious pursuits, when used correctly and paired with scientific pursuits.

We learn about the creation that is in front of us through science, and we learn how those findings should be used, through religious wisdom.

We take for granted that we live in a relatively moral society.

But that is not a guarantee.

And if we stop caring about morality, and we stop wrestling with the great unknowns and ethical, moral, spiritual, and religious questions of our day.

Well there is a very good chance that we revert to our instinctual desire to care for me, myself and I alone.

I am not saying that you need religion in order to be a good person.

But what I am saying, is that when we stop coming together as a group, as a faith community, and we stop wrestling with the

complexities of communal life through the lens of spiritual wisdom, there is a good chance that we will not be as inclined as a culture, to follow God's wisdom.

Which is basically, love God with all your heart, mind and soul and your neighbor likewise.

It seems simple.

And it certainly is simple to say.

But it is not simple to do.

It is easy and often times unnoticed to revert back to our selfish ways.

That is if we don't keep this wisdom at the forefront of our minds.

Like good faith communities should do.

When we discover something in science, we shouldn't say oh that's evil or good.

Because all science does is discover what God has already made.

What we should be doing, is saying, how do we use this so that it will bring Glory to God.

And we do that by loving God with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbor likewise.

The wisdom that we have here, is that we should not use God's creation for our own gain.

But for the betterment of all of humanity and creation as a whole.

Again easy to say, but difficult to do.

Because we see time and time again, humans abusing other humans, using science to get ahead of or destroy other humans.

It is not that science is bad.

Its that we make bad, immoral, selfish decisions, with the discoveries that science provides us, that should be discovered with the whole of creation's well being in mind.

When we figured out nuclear fission, it was almost immediately used to build a bomb.

There is a concern of mine, even though we have ethics committees for science discoveries, is that a society at large that itself does not wrestle with the wisdom of religious teachings, will not have an ethics committee that will make decisions that align with loving God and neighbor.

We have been conditioned to look at the world as if it is black and white.

You are either for science, and against religion, or you are for religion and against science.

Or you are Republican or Democrat.

Selfish or selfless.

Patriot or traitor.

We have lost our ability to see nuance, to see the good in people, to understand that it is possible to hold two things that are contradictory as truths.

When you get to the very foundations of physics, my goodness weird things happen.

Nothing makes sense any more.

But we don't throw away science just because it stops making sense to us now.

So why do we feel that just because we don't fully understand God and who God is, and how God works in the world, that God doesn't exist?

Why can't we figure out to be ok with mystery?

What happened?

The wisdom of God, doesn't have to make sense to us, to be true.

Loving our enemies, seems like a fools game.

But if we wish to live as if heaven is on earth, we must learn to love those whom we do not like or agree with.

Just because God isn't standing right here in front of us in God's fullness, doesn't mean that God doesn't exist.

As a society we have closed our minds.

We have chosen to be limited in our understanding of existence, morality, and the cosmos.

What I am asking, is for us to be more open, more inquisitive and more comfortable with mystery.

And in the meantime, as we continue to learn, to follow the wisdom of God.

To love our God, with all our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbor likewise.

And if we do that, maybe, in our actions and our love, we will see the beauty of God's creation through the sciences, and God's wisdom through our interactions with one another.

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