

A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM

Isaiah 11:1-10

December 4, 2019

"The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them." Isaiah 11:6, CEB

These verses, especially verse 6, have captivated me since I was a child. Wolves and lambs, suddenly able to coexist and live together in peace? It's entertaining to try to imagine the logistics that would allow predators and prey to live in harmony.

We may want to think that a world where fear and oppression are no more means that certain people aren't welcome. They don't fit in, they threaten who we are, or we just don't trust them. However, predators aren't excluded from this vision of a perfect world. Predators aren't in captivity, safe in zoos where they can be observed from a distance, no threat to the lambs or goats who might visit. Instead, the predators are transformed, becoming beings that will not harm or destroy.

When we walk with Jesus, we will, at some point, walk with people we don't expect. We might see someone and find it hard to believe that this lion is really on our side. We might feel like a leopard among goats, repentant of the ways we have fallen short and caused harm. The closer we walk with Jesus, the closer we also walk in community with those around us. May we be given the strength to keep moving forward in our walks with Jesus and our fellow travelers as we are transformed by God's grace and love.

Prayer: Just as the Spirit rested upon Jesus, may the Spirit rest on us to bring wisdom and understanding, planning and strength, and knowledge and love. Prepare our hearts to seek you out in the most unlikely of places. Amen.

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