

WISDOM AND PEACE

Scripture: James 3:13-18

January 2, 2021

Message:

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:17-18 (NIV)

An epiphany is a life altering revelation or awakening that only 50% of people have claimed to have experienced. A true epiphany is much greater than ideas or insights. As with epiphanies, eyes are opened to truths or changes that make us new and different persons.

Years ago, while visiting in India, I toured Mahatma Gandhi's final residence. He is most known for fasting from food, but Gandhi once fasted from speaking for about two years. Imagine. Gandhi's non-violent peaceful revolutions altered how we and the world perceive ways to change society forever. He was a major influence on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. among others. Perhaps his years of silence are what led him to these methods of revolution.

For medical reasons, about twenty years ago speaking became difficult for me. This provided the opportunity to listen instead of speaking, which turned into a personal blessing. Silence and listening have given me a space to see and hear God's voice in my life. Instead of offering advice to others, I silently give them time to think through their words or actions.

I think of the Magi who rode in silence for years seeking answers. Like those travelers on that journey to greet the Christ child, we too can reach an epiphany this year by silencing the distractions which abound in our lives and minds, centering instead on Jesus, His words, His actions, and His example. As they followed that star, the Magi must have wondered about the "how" and the "why" of their journey.

We too are in a season of Epiphany today. Let us make time to ponder our own journey.

Prayer: Eternal and loving God, Hear our prayer for guidance. Lead us in the path to righteousness, to a time of peace and wisdom. This we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

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