

Pastor Roy's Sermon from June 19, 2016

Father's Day

Today's passages invite us to the freedom of faith. Jesus invites the man to live freely among his own people. Paul invites the Galatians to let go of their need perform well. Isaiah invites Israel to give up being God and controlling God and release themselves into simply being God's people who trust. The Psalmist invites us to honor God by taking seriously those to whom God listens. Mercy makes us free, and yet we feel the tug of bondage, we're not sure we like this freedom which God offers to those who trust. It's frightening. But together, we are pushing out the limits of God's mercy. Now on to fathers. Is that, perhaps, what is at the heart of being a good father. Pushing out the limits of freedom and mercy and wisdom.

There are many ways of practicing the craft of fatherhood. Bestowing upon the children the essence of what one has discovered so far. Sharing one's toys, one's habits, one's strengths, one's way of going forward in life. Fatherhood is fraught with all kinds of uncertainty. How hard do we push, what do we hold back, what questions do we ask, what silences do we release? Naturally, it's quite terrifying. As hard as we try, we have to let go. Hopefully, by the time they have gone their own way, we have had lots of practice and have begun to accept that they have their own life to live, their own difficult lessons to learn, on the path of freedom and wisdom through mercy and hope.

Today we honor our fathers. We all have our own ways of honoring. Perhaps stories will be told, the likes of which I have heard recently as children speak of their deceased fathers. The stories of our fathers are always there, aren't they, keeping us company. We have the pleasure of enjoying some memories, while at times the best we can do is make peace with them. This too is kind of prayer in which we invite God to show us the place of freedom and peace. Like Isaiah, like Paul, like Jesus. Thanks be to God for our fathers and all of those who have shown us the way. Amen.