

Sermon

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

AMEN.

Any artists?

I am not particularly artistic. I don't draw, paint, sculpt, compose etc.

I do however enjoy art.

We went to NY, NY in the mid-1990s. It was in mid-Gulliani transition and, in fact, felt quite safe. The city still had an edge to it – rough and tumble and gritty, but was really quite tame compared to the stories that were circulating about it.

Galleries portraiture, Fabrage eggs and furniture.

No one else had any interest in looking at the portrait gallery and so I was let loose in the museum with a time to rejoin my family.

Can't tell you exactly what I spent that several hours looking at. I fumbled around for words and came up with naught.

I couldn't tell my mother when we got back together at lunch what I had seen or the effect that it had had on me.

I had no words at that age to describe it. I don't think I yet have the words to describe the beauty or the forms that I bore witness to that day, or in any other gallery since.

Silence was my only reply. It remains my only reply

Peter, James and John walked up a mountain with Jesus leaving the others behind, they returned awhile later silent.

Now, I don't intend to compare the events on a desert mountain in the Holy Land to the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, but the reaction seems to have been about the same.

The account we have today, as feeble as it is, took better than 100 years to record. Those that had experienced it were dead and gone by the time the present account was made.

The best they could do was describe the colour – whiter than any person could bleach.

We live in a world of instant communication – we have come to expect that we will be able to relate our experiences as they are happening and in less than 140 characters on Social Media for all the world to read.

Silence is okay. In fact, it is scriptural.

Peter, James and John fumbled for words – they got their reaction wrong. “Let’s build some tents and keep this just the way it is now.”

The experience was not even complete for that day, let alone the rest of Jesus’ ministry.

Jesus instructed them to be silent. He needed them to have the full experience and do some processing before they related what had happened.

Sometimes silence is the right response.

So, experience the world, experience God – in creation, in your family, in the church.

Let it sink in.

Maintain your silence as long as you need to.

Then, like James and Peter and John tell out what you have experienced.

Let us pray.

God of glory, by the grace of your Spirit, reveal your Son to us now in the message of the prophets and in the witness of the apostles, so that we may heed his voice and receive him in faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

AMEN.