

Christmas Morning

Isaiah 42, Luke 2:21-40,

Happy Christmas morning to you!

Now it is time to move beyond the baby in the feeding trough. Silent night and candles is lovely and mystical. But Christmas morning sets in – you know what goes with the infant? Adult responsibilities.

Somebody needs to be the adult. That is always the case with infants.

And there is also the matter of the dyslexic dog.

A dog is a thing that you order around. (or at least you hope it obeys) . A dog waits on you. But God is not our dog. We serve God. We have work to do. We don't wait for God to do it for us.

We have said God is with us. God is. But we have our work to do. (and God is with us in that work) .

The scriptures this morning point out our strategy for our work as adults in faith: (And in this case I suggest three points)

1. Do what has been done.
2. Hear the call to what is to be done
3. (intentionally blank – read below)

So we see Mary and Joseph doing what has been prescribed. They take Jesus to the temple on the 8th day for the dedication. It's tradition. It's how you mark the occasion. But tradition is there for a reason and it ties us into a community.

Second – Isaiah 42 speaks eloquently about the life to which we are called:

I am the Lord, I have called you in right relationship, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people. A light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

And third :We practice. We keep doing it until it becomes easy. Until it becomes second nature. We live in love and concern for our neighbor. Because **loving our neighbor is living our love for Christ.**

I am talking about **Musculature**. Faith is like any other thing you do. If you want to get good at it – then practice – build the musculature.

It is Christmas morning. Where we face the work of faith and faithfulness. (Where we sweep up after the holidays.) God is with us. But we have work to do. (because God doesn't do our work for us!)

1. Do what has been done.
2. Hear the call to what is to be done
3. **Musculature: do the work of faith and faithfulness!**