

July 6 sermon

Sent from Windows Mail

Grace Lutheran Church @ Wichita, Kansas July 6, 2014

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Adults can be stupid, even though they think they are wise. I know. I am an adult. I think I'm wise, but I say and do stupid things. I have to agree with St. Paul, "I do not understand my own actions." If you need more proof of my stupidity, check with my wife!

Babies on the other hand are quite wise. Yes, babies! Why? Because a baby doesn't talk back. A baby doesn't have words to show-off its sophistry. As a matter of fact, that is what the Greek word for baby (νηπιος) means, "no words." A baby is not going to argue. A baby is not going to debate. O that all adults would become babes in the kingdom of God, for God has ordained *that out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants is strength!*

The Most High God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, the One we bless with the name *Holy Trinity*, the one who created man as man and woman as woman, creates male and female babies who cannot say a word. They are speechless! Take a cue, adults! Let us become like babies before God. Let us not talk back to God. Let us not debate with our Lord about His word and His will.

Why do we, who think we are wise and prudent, want to argue with the all wise Lord? The Lord has revealed what we need to know in order to be all wise.

- The Lord says that I have sinned and done evil in His sight (Ps. 51). But no, I want to talk back. I don't want to be a baby in this matter. I want to debate my Lord on this point. True Lord, I've got some transgressions, but evil? Com'on Lord, I'm not evil like some child molester or like some serial killer.
- The Lord says that I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me. I debate that. How can a baby be sinful? What can a baby do to sin? Look at baby pictures Lord. Don't you see how cute a baby is, especially decked out in those summer pastels or those Kansas City Chief colors?
- The Lord says He became man to take away the sting of death. Yet we contend with Him. We don't want to be babylike. We want to show some of our learning! Was Jesus really a male? Maybe He was a female. Maybe He didn't really die to take away death's sting. Maybe that's all just legend. Maybe Jesus is more of a Zorro than a Savior.

These are some of the truths the Lord of heaven and earth has revealed to babes like us. There is to be no questioning of Him; there is to be no doubting Him. Shut your mouth. Be speechless. Be like a babe. Don't challenge the things delivered from God the Father. Repent, because if you don't, it will be worse for you than it was for the city of Sodom (v. 24).

In your wisdom, do you think that your Lord does not care for you? In your vast knowledge, do you think He does not know your every need, your every longing.....whether those longings be sinful or holy? Do you think you can hide your feelings from Him as you might do with your best friend or your parents or your spouse? NO! That is why your Lord begs and pleads with you, "Come to Me. Come to Me when you have labored to the point of exhaustion. Seek Me where I am to be found and where I give you burden-removing comforts."

You know how the Law can weigh you down. You hear the Commandment to *have no other gods*. Well, you tell yourself, "I have not set up another god in my life. I have a crucifix hanging on my wall. I have my Lutheran Prayer book beside my bedside. I have that plaque of the 10 Commandments on my fireplace mantle. I'm protected. I love God. I love Jesus. I'm not an idol worshiper."

But then, you catch yourself worrying. You worry about your popularity as you move from junior high to high school, from high school to college, from college to your first job. Will people like me? Will these new faces accept me for who I am? Will I offend them if I speak out against abortion or homosexuality or against women who pretend to be pastors? Will they mock me if I go to church early on Sunday morning?

Or you catch yourself wondering about your neighbor. Why does that family seem to have things so good? Each one of their four kids has his own car. My three kids have to share one car. Those kids' parents have such good jobs and probably a health plan and a retirement plan. My wife and I live day to day and my retirement plan is to die without leaving my wife a huge debt.

And, do I have other gods if the Most High God should take away from me my husband or one of my children or the business I built with my own two hands? What then? Do I claim to keep the First Commandment when I complain, murmur and fall into deep, dark depression? Repent. Be baby-like.

Jesus calls. Come to Me. Forsake yourself. Don't trust your mother or father. Don't trust a son or a daughter. Don't trust a 401C or a 238-year-old Declaration of Independence. The Lord your God, the Father of Jesus and of us, is a jealous God. He will have no rivals. He will have no contenders. He yokes Himself to you by means of Holy Baptism. You are mine, He says. I called you, for you would never have enough intelligence to find Me. You are crucified with Me. You are buried with Me. You are resurrected with Me. I Jesus am your God. I am gentle and lowly of heart. I know that you are not as wise as you think you are nor as strong as you think you are. I know you are weak of flesh and heavy laden in spirit. That is why I suffered for you. That is why I died for you. That is why I took God's punishment for your sin.

This jealous God yokes Himself to you with His Body and Blood, 'the blood of My covenant' as the prophet Zechariah calls it. Take up the cup of salvation. Drink. This is for your good. The cup of salvation lifts your burdens. It forgives your sins. Zechariah says that this blood sets prisoners free! Fellow prisoners, let us drink! Drink of it often, as often as a little baby gladly drinks mother's milk.

You, babes of Zion, you have learned how to shout aloud of this King, of this Savior, of this Lord of Heaven and Earth. He has delivered you from this body of an adult to being a child, yea, to being even a babe of God. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ITNOTF,S, HS. Amen.