

Coming in the other morning (and today) we caught the sunrise on the Olympics and over the Cascades. It was spectacular to say the least. The rugged snow capped peaks reflecting the brightness and colors of the rising sun - WOW. An indescribable glory. How does one describe this glory to one who has never seen them? We are learning with Teresa and Jack how hard it is to describe things we take for granted like colors and shapes. The news some time ago showed the face of a child who heard his mother's voice for the first time — no way to explain the joy on his face, an indescribable glory.

In our Scripture today we see God's glory through Moses and Jesus. Moses' represents the fading presence of God's glory. After his time with God, Moses' face radiated the glory of the moment. It was the eyes of a child delighting in a new discovery. The depth of love seen in the eyes of lovers. The reflected glow of the Divine presence. The people were afraid to come before Moses - God's glory was being reflected through him. But, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:13 that Moses used the veil also to hide God's glory and the fact that the longer he stayed away from God the less the presence of God shown. The first Chicken Soup for the Soul has the story of Sachi:

Soon after her brother was born, little Sachi began to ask her parents to leave her alone with the new baby. They worried that, like most four-year olds, she might feel jealous and want to hit or shake him, so they said no. But she showed no signs of jealousy. She treated the baby with kindness and her pleas to be left alone with him became more urgent. They decided to allow it.

Elated, she went into the baby's room and shut the door, but it opened a crack — enough for her curious parents to peek in and listen. They saw little Sachi walk quietly up to her baby brother, and put her face close to his and say quietly, "Baby, tell me what God feels like. I am starting to forget."

James, Peter and John are on a mountain top with Jesus. As Jesus prays, the glory of God comes on him and Luke says that his countenance became as white as a bolt of lightning. Then with him are both Moses and Elijah, also reflecting the brightness of God's glory. There is no way one can describe the glory of the moment when God's came - a cloud - God's greatness would be too great - they see something like sun shining through the fog and mist. And then a voice - an affirmation. A WOW moment we all long for.

Now, allow me to challenge us a little more - If we read Exodus 35:31-36 we see God giving craftsmen and women a "divine" spirit - A creative spirit. Did you ever wonder...

- * Whose idea it was to stretch a string taut and then strum, pluck or rub a bow over it?
- * Who thought of hollowing out a stick or reed and putting holes in it and then blowing through it?
- * Who thought of taking and twisting hollow metal, adding valves and then blowing through it?
- * Who thought about adding a reed or two to change the sound?
- * Who thought about adding a hammer to the strings with keys to make them tap the string and call it a piano?

In the chapter I wrote for Embracing the Future I noted that the music of Beethoven sounds better played on instruments that had not been invented when he wrote his music. (The editor quickly sent back a note, "What instruments?") A little research came up with the piccolo, bass clarinets, double bassoons, trombones, tubas and a few others. And, then who thought of putting

circles on lines on a piece of paper - flattening some, sharpening others? A universal system that transcends any language.

Moses speaks of God giving artists and craftsmen a divine gift. Workers in metals, drawing and engraving are using what God has given them, a creative spirit. And then, he includes those who work in yarns and dyes and weaving. Who discovered that if you want a certain color you use this plant for the dye? Moses gives God the credit as having given indescribable gifts that also reflect the glory of God. Creative spirits are also a part of God's glory and majesty.

God's indescribable glory is all around us. It is more than the Cascades and the Olympics. The roses in our garden or the tulips in our field (saw a whole row of crocus in bloom yesterday). But, God's glory is in every piece of music, every piece of art. It is in the eyes of every child or lover — every person has in them a deep reflection of the glory of God. God's glory is in the craftsman, the musician, the painter, the potter, the baker and even the candlestick maker!

Maybe we look too hard to see and find God's glory. It is all around us. It is in the bread and the cup that we share this morning. It is in the hands that prepared it. Our call is to reflect God's glory in all that we do — even in serving. Might God's indescribable glory be renewed in us again as we come to this Table - like for little Sachi, may it remind us, "...what God feels like, I am starting to forget."

NIV, New International Bible Society, Zondervan, 1973, 1978, 1985

NRSV, Division of Christian Education, NCC, 1989

Canfield/Hanson, Chicken Soup for the Soul #1, Heath Communications, Inc. 1993