

Called to Community

Deepening



Day 4

Isaiah 40:28-31 ... those who wait for the Lord?

Acts 16:25-34 ... Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God

Romans 15:1-6 ... each of us must please our neighbor

James 5:13-16 ... prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective

God is a God of community. Having created Adam, God realized that *it is not good that man should be alone*. From the very beginning God sought connection and created Eve to share life with Adam. Visiting them in the garden, God formed the first community.

In the passage from Acts, God created an earthquake to free Paul and Silas from prison. Instead of escaping, they chose to remain to protect the jailer. In so doing they saved his life. The jailer was so moved by their deep faith that he asked how he could be saved. They encouraged him to believe in Jesus. The jailer invited them to his home where he washed their wounds and he and his entire family were baptised. Sharing a meal together deepened their relationships with God and each other.

I believe that as we deepen our relationship with God, we can become more tolerant, more understanding, more open to others. A number of years ago I read a description of the cross. The author suggested that the vertical post of the cross is grounded in the earth, in creation, and in community. That post builds connection with God. When the post is secure and stable, then a horizontal beam can be added. The horizontal beam connects us to one another deepening community.

In my personal experience, the support of my family, my friends, and my church family has assisted me through grief and other personal struggles. That community has also joined me in celebrations. Sharing these experiences has deepened our relationships.

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For Reflection and Journaling:

1. When has community been important in my life?
2. How did that experience deepen my connection with God?

Meditative Prayer:

*God, as you seek to connect with us,
may we seek to connect with you
in deeper relationship.
Through your grace,
may we reach out to love and support others. Amen*