

“Responding to Humanity’s Call for Leadership”

Fourth Sunday of Advent Reflections: Second Samuel 7: 1-17, Luke 1: 46b-55

Rev. Ivan Marable

Christian theologians may view the term humanity as having origins with the creative action of God. God in creating humans established relationship with God’s creation of the “Human Race” in his divine imagine.

God in relationship with humanity must expect and assume a vital level of dialogue, accountability, and responsibility. Moreover, I believe it to be fair of God to expect reasonable and perhaps at times beyond reasonable levels of dialogue, accountability, and responsibility from humanity.

Subsequently, I view Advent in terms of its historical foundation. My view of advent simply stated is a call from humanity to their God to provide a leader that they could relate too. Perhaps a King, Prince, or Minister: a boots on the ground person of deep love, respect and integrity. A person humanity found, tangible, pragmatic, and relational towards community. God responded to humanity’s call for leadership in the affirmative first choosing Saul, and then choosing David. I argue that this historical formation of advent offers evidence of humanity’s participation and God’s procession toward the monarchy in response to humanity’s call.

Certainly advent is a spiritual and perhaps holy season. Advent is a time when the “people of God” consider the grace, mercy, and love of God, particularly in the suffering, death, and resurrection of God’s child, Jesus Christ. We have created rituals, worship moments, and written reflections to pay homage, praise, and prayer alms to God through Christ during our interaction with family and community.

The writer of Second Samuel 7:1-17 created a trinitarian like moment of dialogue, accountability, and responsibility as David reflected on the blessings, peace, and love God had bestowed on him and the people of God. David shared with the prophet Nathan that he was motivated to build a house for God to reside. Nathan affirmed David’s motivation assuring him God was with him.

Subsequently, during the night the writer recorded the spiritual revelation of God's word imparted to Nathan. God questioned David's plan to build a house for him. I sense God believed David's time and labor may be well spent on the success he he had experienced building the community of Israel continuing to enhance vision and confidence of the Israel tribal leaders and safe well-being of their community. God reminded Nathan of David's ascension from the pasture of sheep herding to prince leading the people of God. God disclosed to Nathan that David had earned his favor there was "peace in the land" the people of Israel/children of God may worship, rest, and feel safe with God at their side and David as their leader. Finally, God revealed to Nathan that he had made provisions for David's family and offspring and the families and children of Israel.

In conclusion, I believe we all desire throughout "Advent" and our journey through life to experience peace in the land, safety for our offspring, community, and vocations. God in response to humanity's call for leadership continues to improve dialogue, accountability, and responsibility with leadership, the house (Kingdom of God), and the intersection of humanity and the divine with the birth of Jesus Christ subsequent to the faith of Mary and Mary's beyond reasonable levels of (Luke 1: 46b-55) testimony in welcoming the "Advent of God's plan in her (humanity's) life."

Rev. Ivan L. Marable is the Clerk of the ABC-Rochester Genesee Region and Chapter Representative to our National Minister's Council. He also serves as At-Large Minister's Council Board of Governors