

**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost, Proper 9**

**July 5, 2020**

Year A RCL

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-15; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**“I will give you rest.”**

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The logic of God speaks in human language, but the words of that language communicate deeper realities accessible to those that today's gospel calls infants. Opposite to the wise and the intelligent of this world, the heavenly realities are revealed to the despised and little ones of the world who are chosen by God.

The logic of God follows a series of principles that seems irrational and illogical for most of us. When Mary gave birth to the Infant Jesus, we see Him without a place in the inn, instead He is born in a manger. When God shows us His love, we are invited to see the cross of Jesus on Calvary. When we read the narratives of the resurrection, we see Mary of Magdalen (a woman with questionable past) being the announcer of the resurrection. These examples together with the whole Bible proves that God works in categories that surpasses human understanding.

It is in this revelation of God's actions that we need to read the prophecy of Zechariah, chapter 9. The people of Israel are living in exile in Babylon, they are prisoners, waiting to be free and able to return to their country. They are expecting a warrior king and defender. They need a powerful leader that will rise against Israel's enemies and fight for them. God instead promised to send a humble king, who comes riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. God has all power and authority, and in place of war and destruction, Jesus will offer peace to all nations.

While the world looks for control, wealth, greatness, the capacity to possess and accumulate riches, dominate, and take advantage of others, the Messiah of God is meek and obedient. He is a teacher, gentle and humble in heart. His wisdom and intelligence surpass all conventional knowledge; He above all else teaches us love.

As Christians it is important to remember that the answer for our most important questions, and the hope for change or a better tomorrow in any circumstance can only be found in God. If people continue looking for their answers in the wrong places or with the human logic they possess, they will continue missing the presence of God who is and has always been present in the entire human history.

The people of Israel wait for the warrior king and received a humble king, which at the end was obviously better for them since Jesus can restore not only Israel, but the whole earth. This is the same for us, each time our expectations are only in human terms and disconnected from God, we ignore the fact that only God has the capability to restore, heal, help, provide, and answer for what we need to be happy.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” The logic of God cares for all humanity to the point of leaving this open invitation for each person in every time, place, and culture. God knows that we all get weary and tired; He understand how heavy the burdens are that each one of us carries; and God knows that we need rest.

Do you realize that the rest we need is found only in God? During this time of Summer, and especially in this time of pandemic we truly need to rest. Even if we take time off and go somewhere to have a good time, we are not at rest because we are too busy to rest in God. When we talk about rest, we might naturally think about vacation. Again, the logic of God is different from our human thoughts and expectations; rest is associated with God himself who choose to respite after the whole act of creation. Rest then is a time to be overall renewed, a time to reflect, to be refreshed, to reignite and revitalize our life. It

is a time to be with God, to learn more about oneself and to rededicate our life to be true disciples.

We rest so we may take Jesus' yoke and to learn from Him, our humble and gentle teacher. Contrary to the heavy burdens we carry, Jesus yoke is easy, and His burden is light. In our Christian life, it is possible and worthy for us to carry His yoke, not for the capacities we have or the things we do, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus invitation to come and rest in Him, is the work of God in us. If we keep carrying our heavy burdens and are weary for the circumstances of our lives, we reject Jesus invitation and choose our own yoke siding with the wise and intelligent of this world, which at the end are blind to recognize God. If in humility we come to Jesus and rest in Him, we will learn that no matter the weight of our burden, God is our strength and His yoke is easy because He is love. Amen.