

Scripture for January 11, 2009

Reflection from John Surette, SJ

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*Our Desires*

**When I was 12 years old my parents sent me to summer scout camp...actually, they did not send me, I insisted on going.**

**I remember sitting around a campfire one night and staring into the flame, into that part of the flame that seemed to have no beginning and no ending. From deep within me a desire welled-up. It was a desire that my life would have something to do with what is deep....not bad for a 12 year old kid!**

**Looking back today on that event, I am certain that in that desire I was being allured into my future and that much of my life since then has been an unfolding of that desire. Looking back today on the event, I am certain that the God within me looked upon that 12 year old kid with his desire and said “You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”**

**Yes, our desires are important. We need to pay attention to them. Yes, the**



**Creative Spirit does allure us into our futures through our desires and so we need to ponder them, reverence them, and see in what direction they are inviting us.**

**In today's Gospel (Mark 1:11), Jesus is perhaps 30 years old. He is about to begin what our tradition**

The Well

*A Center for our  
Sacred Unity with God,  
Earth, and One  
Another.*

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**calls “his public life.” As he goes down into the warm muddy waters of the Jordan and comes up into the bright sunlight, I wonder what he desires? Taking our cue from the whole Gospel story, we can attempt to answer this question.**

**Like many sons, Jesus wasn’t interested in following in his father’s footsteps and being a carpenter. It seems that he desired to be an itinerant teacher, going about all the towns and villages of his own country and speaking to the people about God’s Reign of justice, peace, and love; speaking especially to the poor, the marginalized, and the downpressed of his society.**

**He desired to tell them that God’s Reign offers life not death. It offers a banquet of grain, wine, milk and honey**

**for those whose bellies ache. It offers satisfaction for those who are frustrated and disappointed, and freedom for those enslaved and imprisoned.**

**He desired to tell them that God’s Reign is not some future condition but a present one, unfolding within each and every one. He desired that his teaching would not return to him empty but would water the Earth making it fertile and fruitful.**

**And the God within him looked upon this 30 year old man with all the desires in his soul and said: “You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased.”**

**So, what about all of us in this chapel? Do you remember some deep desires you had when you were younger? Or, what desires do you find today when you look into that place deep within where you are working out your Yes to life and your Yes to God?**

**What do you desire for yourself, for your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews? What do you desire for our Church, our Country, and our World?**

**What do you desire for our dear planet Earth that is under such great stress early in this 21st century? How strong is your desire for justice, peace, and right relationship for Earth and its human community?**

**Your desires are gifts that have been given to you. Value them! Act on them! Allow them to allure you into your future.... no matter how many or few years that future might contain.**

**And, most importantly, know that the God within you looks upon you and your deepest desires and says: “You are my beloved son... you are my beloved daughter... in whom I am well pleased.”**

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