

Holy Trinity 5/22/16
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 C

DOES NOT WISDOM CALL? DOES NOT UNDERSTANDING RAISE HER VOICE? ON THE HEIGHTS BESIDE THE WAY, AT THE CROSSROADS SHE TAKES HER STAND; BESIDE THE GATES IN FRONT OF THE TOWN, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PORTALS SHE CRIES ALOUD: "TO YOU, O MEN, I CALL, AND MY CRY IS TO THE CHILDREN OF MAN."

Holy Trinity Sunday. You know what that means, right? We confess the Athanasian Creed and the Athanasian Creed says this, "Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic...And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the person nor dividing the substance." It also tells us that it is necessary for eternal salvation that we believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He is both perfect God and perfect man, that He suffered, died, was buried, rose again, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty, and from there He shall come to judge both the living and the dead.

This confession of the Trinity, this confession of Christ is necessary for salvation, this faith is necessary for our eternal salvation. So, the \$64,000 question for us is: how do we come to have such a faith? How do we come to believe? Clearly we are not born with it. We are not even born with a desire for it. We cannot choose it. So, how do we come to believe in Jesus?

Well, remember Pentecost. People from all over the known world were in Jerusalem, people from Persia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome. They came from all over the world and each spoke their own

language. The disciples of Jesus were gathered together, and, on the Day of Pentecost, the sound of a mighty rushing wind filled the room where they were and tongues of fire appeared and came to rest of each of them and they began to proclaim the mighty works of God in languages, tongues, of those Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome.

When they heard the Gospel in their own native languages, they were perplexed, confused, and amazed, and asked, "What does this mean?"

Peter stood up and began to explain how Jesus came to earth, was crucified for them and their salvation, how He was raised from the dead by God the Father, how He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. And what they were seeing and hearing that day was Jesus pouring out the Holy Spirit upon them. They heard that message and by the power of the Holy Spirit, they were cut to the heart and said, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter told them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God call to himself." And they came to worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in unity. They came to believe in Jesus being perfect God and perfect man, in His suffering, is dying, His rising again, His ascension into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, and His coming again to judge the living and the dead. They believed all that and some 3,000 were added to the Kingdom that day.

What happened that day is simply this: Wisdom called and Understanding raised up her voice. Because when Wisdom calls and

Understanding raises her voice, they proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ, so that those born dead in sin come to believe in one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity. They call people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, so that sinners believe Jesus is perfect God and perfect man, that He suffered for you, died for you, rose again for you, ascended and sits at the right hand of God, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

That's what Wisdom and Understanding do. And it's a good thing they do because we are all, by nature, children of man. I know you're going to say to me, "Well, da, Pastor. Of course, I'm a child of man, my mom was a human being, my dad was a human being."

But, when we look at our reading in Hebrew, it says, "Children of **Adam**." And you know what that means, right? Children of the one formed from the dust of the earth. Children of the sinner, the one who sinned and His sin led to death and death came into the world and spread to all men, including you and me, because we have all sinned. That's what it means to be the children of man. It means to be a sinner who is going to return to the dust from which we came and who has no way of freeing themselves from our sin and its wages of death.

But, that's where Wisdom and Understanding come in -- calling and crying out to the children of man that they may have eternal life; that they may come to worship the one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity; that they may come to believe Jesus is perfect God and perfect man.

When Wisdom calls and Understanding cries out to the children of man, they proclaim that God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world. He became incarnate and took on flesh and bone for you. He was perfect God and perfect man. And He took from you all of your sin, that sin you were born with and all the sin that you do, He took it all into His own

body and carried it all the way to Calvary's cross. There, He suffered and died upon that cross. Yes, that was bad for Jesus, but it is nothing but Good News for you because Jesus' death upon that cross was the once and for all sacrifice to pay for all of your sin. And you can be confident that all of your sins have been paid for because the 3rd day after He died, God the Father raised His Son from the dead.

Jesus died for your sins, was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father, from there He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and raise your body from the dust of the earth to live with Him forever and ever. That, Dear Friends in Christ, is the call of Wisdom. That, Dear Friends, is Understanding raising her voice.

Wisdom calls and Understanding raises her voice so that you worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity. Wisdom calls and Understanding raises her voice so that you believe Jesus, perfect God and perfect man, suffered and died for you, rose again, ascended, and will come again for you.

That's the God you worship. That's what you believe, not because you were born believing it or decided to believe it, but God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit called you to that faith when Wisdom called and Understanding raised her voice.