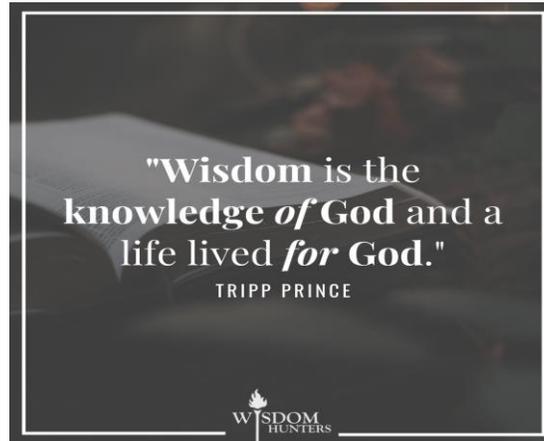


Aldersgate UMC of Butte, Montana
406.782.2425 ... www.aldersgatebutte.org

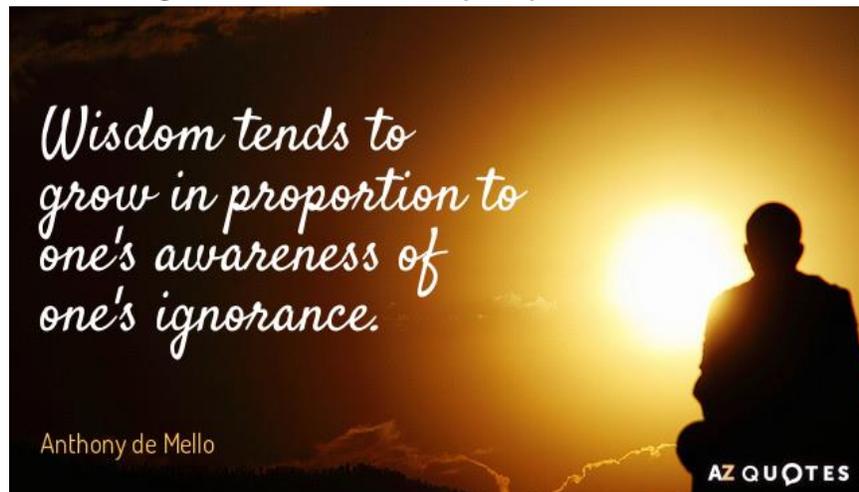
Pastor Matthias Krier

August 29, 2021

Background to Scripture



This is the third Sunday in a series on seeking Wisdom in our lives. There is something about seeking wisdom in a time where wisdom and living with wisdom seems to be in short supply. Are we or are we not a wisdom people? How do we grow in wisdom anyway?



Let's be honest. Waking up can be scary ... Waking up to life ... waking up to wisdom ... waking up to Truth can be scary and unsettling, if not, it probably isn't the unconventional words of wisdom from Jesus. Are we

ready to get outside our comfort zones to learn something new? Are we ready to face the Truth in all things?



Let us come with open minds and open hearts to hear our scripture for today. I interpret the voice of Yeshua as being somewhat sarcastic as he speaks to his audience.

Scripture Lesson: Lost Gospel Q 26; cf: Matthew 11:16-19; Luke 7:31-35

How should I describe the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another: “We played the flute for you and you didn’t dance; we sang sad songs and you would not weep.”

For John the Baptist came, not eating bread, not drinking wine, and you said, “He is crazy.”

Now the son of man comes, eating and drinking, and you say, “Just look at him, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and outcasts.”

But Wisdom is being proven right by all her children.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Waking Up to Wisdom

Matthias Krier

It has been said that there have been parents who thought they could name their children in such a way, that they would actually possess the quality or character of the name they gave their child. For example, some parents named their child “Faith” and thought that the child would be inclined towards having faith. Another set of parents named their child Paul thinking that their son would be like the apostle Paul. And then there were the parents who wanted their child to be wise like King Solomon to which the young boy said in this illustration:



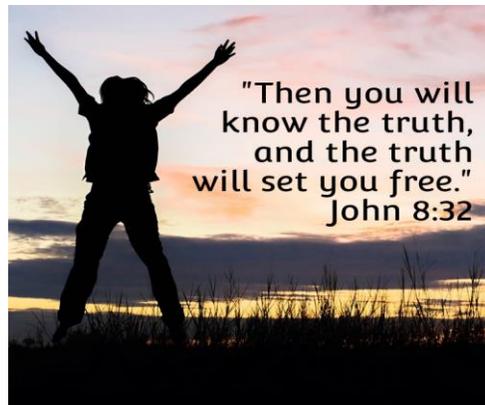
There is no question that Jesus was teaching and preaching words of wisdom in the parables, in the Beatitudes and in the Lord’s Prayer. Even after all that Jesus had taught which turned the world of the disciples upside down, Yeshua was quoted to have said this in the book of John:

“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, the Spirit will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is.

John 16:12,13 The Message Bible

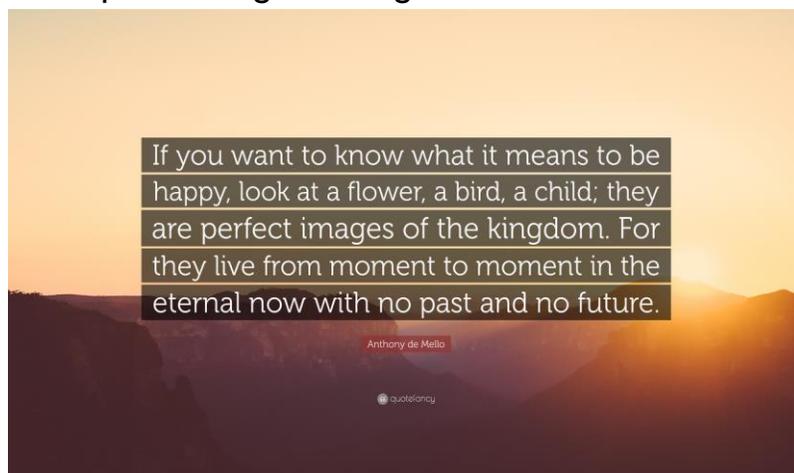
What was it that Yeshua was holding back that the culture of the time would not accept? We may never know, however, we can speculate that it may have had something to do with the institution of slavery and with the treatment of women and children and with the abuses of an oppressive religion to name just a few.

Most of us would agree that Yeshua came to teach not only wisdom but also came to teach us Truth! And what is Truth? Maybe Truth with a capital T is more about a relationship than it is about right and wrong. This isn't to say that truth does not matter, because obviously it does. But maybe, just maybe if we knew the Truth with a capital T, the truth with a lowercase "t" would come more easily. Maybe this is why we hear Jesus being quoted with this verse from John:



What if the Truth is indeed in a relationship instead of proving whose right and who is wrong? We hear those words also in John: *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ..."*

Now Yeshua taught again and again that it was the kingdom of God that comes first and foremost. This is the Wisdom and the Truth that Jesus came teaching and preaching. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is within you and amongst you. Could it be that when we live in the present moment, we are experiencing the kingdom of God?



If we want to go beyond happiness and into joy, then we wake up to the song of the bird, the fragrance of a flower, to be at play like a child, to truly wake up to a sunrise and a sunset.

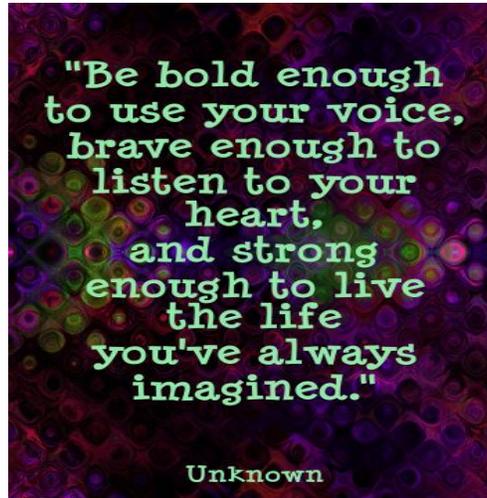
Is this why Jesus said, *“Let the children come to me, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”* There is a series out now called *The Chosen* which so aptly illustrates a more playful and joy-filled Jesus than previous movies about him. We are planning to have a study around this series, so stay tuned for when and where this will take place. I have only seen Season I and cannot speak of Season II, but it is definitely a series to consider for our educational and spiritual growth.

Anything that can help us wake up to Wisdom ... that can help us Wake up to Truth ... that can help us Wake up to living the kingdom of God, right here, right now in the midst of all that is in our nation and our world. I encourage you to take the time and effort to experience the depth and breadth of what is being offered to us in the way of living the abundant life Yeshua proclaimed from the scriptures as well as this study that will be offered.

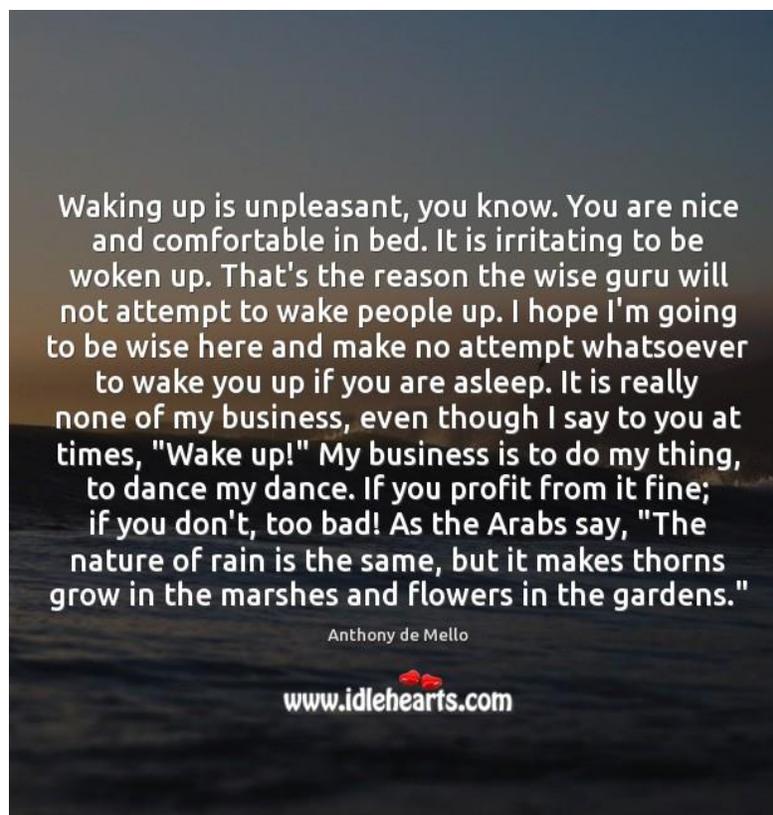
Our planet and our democracy depends on us being open and objective to learning new things, not just those things that support our point of view. There are always two sides to every story and after one fully investigates the two sides, both having reputable sources of information, then one can make an informed decision. Remember this slide from a couple of weeks ago?



So how is that working out for you? Are you listening more and talking less? And for those of you who are always listening instead of talking, are you talking more and listening less. We all have a voice and we need to be courageous enough to use our voice when needed:

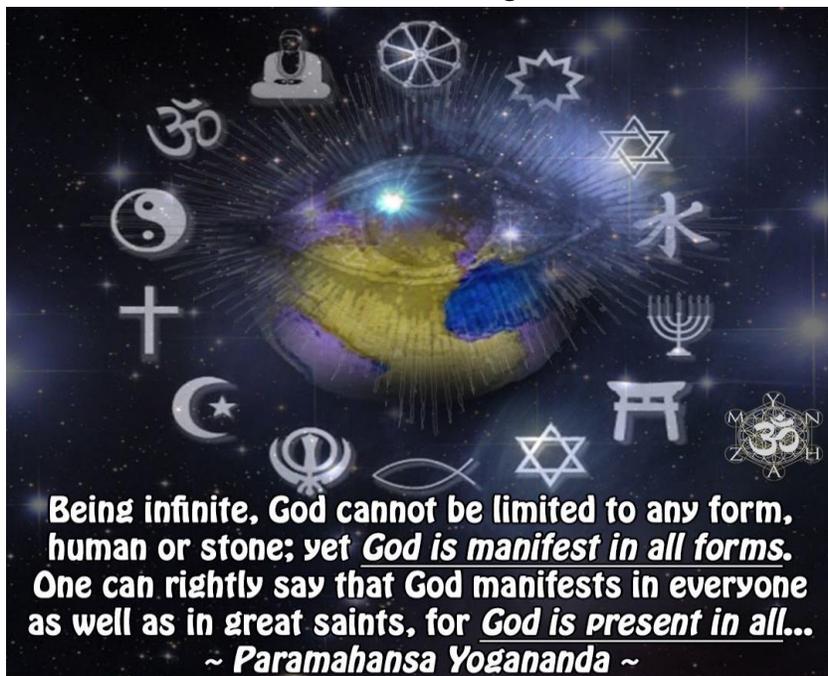


We have now come full circle and in order for us to use our voice where there is bullying or abuse or injustice or prejudice or misinformation, we must wake up in order to use that voice as well as our witness:



Waking up may be unpleasant, but to wake up we must. We must not settle for going through the motions of life or actually sleepwalking through life. May we wake up to the power and presence of Christ and that just as Christ was One with God, Jesus said, we too are One with God. We simply need to wake up to this Oneness. And when we wake up to this Oneness that we are all One, that whether we like it or not, we are all connected. When we wake up that we are all connected, we can love not only our neighbor, we can love our enemies as well.

We may have something in common with other world religions who also believe in this wisdom on being One with God and all things:



Being infinite, God cannot be limited to any form, human or stone; yet *God is manifest in all forms.* One can rightly say that God manifests in everyone as well as in great saints, for *God is present in all...*
~ Paramahansa Yogananda ~

END OF SLIDE

Let us pray: Oh, gracious and life-giving God, we pray that all of humankind can wake up to our Oneness with You, with Creation and with one another! Guide us and empower us to be the people of God creating harmony in a world in need of your wisdom. In your name we pray, Amen.

