

April 18th, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Last week I began a new series in the Bishop's Note on the Seven Godly Virtues with the foundation of all the virtues - HUMILITY. Humility is rooted in the quality of thinking of others before yourself. A terrific book to read regarding humility is Tim Keller's "The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness."

This morning I would like to look into the virtue of Patience. Now the virtue of patience is what we all want for others to extend toward us but one that we feel we shouldn't have to extend to others.

Of course if we want to look for the prime example of the virtue of patience we need look no farther than our Lord. Jesus was able to look upon the fallen creation with compassion and grace - declaring even from the cross: "Forgive them Father for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Jesus demonstrated the patience exhibited by His Father. Moses tells us about the patience of God in the Book of Numbers: "The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression," (Numbers 14:18a) This scripture is so powerful because it demonstrates the three characteristics of patience.

1. Being slow to anger means that we think less about ourselves and more about others. Generally our anger comes from feeling wronged (or too often in my case annoyed). That comes because I am thinking of myself, my wants, my needs, my comfort.
2. Abounding in steadfast love means that we live out what it means to think of others first before ourselves! That steadfast love does not waver, question itself or doubt. This is the love my wife demonstrates towards me - loving me even with all of my faults and blemishes - it is a love that I can cling to.
3. Forgiving iniquity and transgression. That means that we go beyond patience to actively forgive being wronged which means that we release the other person and we release ourselves from the bondage of unforgiveness.

Now those of you familiar with scripture will say... "Hey, Bishop Menees forgot to include the second half of that quote from Numbers." I say... not true...be patient! (See how I worked that in there.) Some argue that being patient means that we allow others to walk all over us. Patience does have it's limits when it comes to justice. Moses concludes this quote from Numbers writing: "but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and the iniquity of the fathers on the children." (Numbers 14:18)



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children, to the third and the fourth generation." (Numbers 14:18b)
Patience in the face of abuse or harm is not patience but avoidance which is no virtue. In this life we turn to the legal system however frail it is but in the life to come we look ultimate for justice which can only come from the Lord the Judge of Heaven and Earth!

Now the fruit of the virtue of patience is Peace - as in the Peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7) This patience and peace comes from trusting fully in the Lord which is the fruit and gift of the Holy Spirit!

Blessings to you all!

Bishop Menees

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[April 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican](#)

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican
for current news of the Diocese!

[Diocesan Calendar](#)

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

April 20th - Anglican 4th Day @St. Michael's in Ridgecrest
Diocesan Council @10 a.m.

April 21st - Bishop @ St. James in Sonora &
Church of the Ascension in Copperopolis

April 26th - 27th - Diocesan Altar Guild Conference
@ St. Luke's in Merced

April 28th - Bishop @St. John's in Petaluma

April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Retreat

May 3-May 6th - Well Youth Retreat @ St. Mark's in Shafter

August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat
at Camp San Joaquin

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