
A Message from the Dean...

What are you Looking For?

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves."-John 6:26

Tim Hansel in *When I Relax I Feel Guilty* writes: An American Indian was in downtown New York, walking with his friend who lived in New York City. Suddenly he said, "I hear a cricket."

"Oh, you're crazy," his friend replied.

"No, I hear a cricket. I do! I'm sure of it."

"It's the noon hour. There are people bustling around, cars honking, taxis squealing, noises from the city. I'm sure you can't hear it."

"I'm sure I do." He listened attentively and then walked to the corner, across the street, and looked all around. Finally on the corner he found a shrub in a large cement planter. He dug beneath the leaves and found a cricket. His friend was astounded. But the Cherokee said, "No. My ears are no different than yours. It simply depends on what you are listening to. Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of change-a few quarters, some nickels, and pennies. And he dropped them on the concrete. Every head within a block turned. "You see what I mean?" he said as he began picking up his coins. "It all depends on what you are listening for."

We live in a day and age in which it seems that people are looking for a reason to be offended. We're looking for the "Gotcha!" quote. We post comments on Twitter trying to be cute or to give the snappy repartee. Snark is in; dialogue is out.

In our gospel reading today, the people were looking for Jesus because he fed them. I wonder if they recognized that he could satisfy their heart hunger? Sometimes we have to go past the surface need to discover-or uncover-the deeper need. Do you know what you are looking for? Or that person that simply irritates you? What do you think they are looking for? What do you think Jesus would say about their need?

Blessings,

Dean Michell+
