

Fifteenth Sunday, July 12, 2009

A. Novel – summer reading ... Laurens van der Post ... “A Story like the Wind” & “A Far Off Place”

- story about Africa and the clashing of two cultures: European and African
- we are familiar with the South Africa story ... apartheid

B. Several passages in the book that relate to our readings today

“The real, the only crises out of which all evil came was a crisis of meaning. It was the terrible invasion of meaninglessness and a feeling of not belonging invading the awareness of man, that was the unique sickness of our day.” -302

- Jesus summoned and sent the disciples ... message of God’s love
- meaning comes from relationships...a deep sense of belonging
- importance of community: of healing, of affirmation, of encouragement

C. Tapping ... constant refrain ... inside us there are impulses, whispers, nudges, hunches, intuitions, movements, proddings = if they register... we must respond

“It’s their way of saying that they had sounds within,” he said,” “that tell them of things eye cannot see, even things before they happen, so that they know what to do about them, much in the same way as your Joan of Arc heard voices within her telling her what to do.” - 17

- Amos: tending his sheep / dressers of sycamores ... then a call came
- key: “obedience to awareness” ... once aware, we are to act
- danger of un-lived awareness ... weighs us down ... burden / depressing

D. Community / harmony

community/harmony

“He knew how harmony between people was vital to survival in such dangerous circumstances. Even in so peaceful a pursuit as hunting it was a closely observed practice not to set out with men one did not like much, let alone whom one actively disapproved, because it was well known that even so slight a lack of sympathy tended to exclude one from the sympathy of nature for one’s cause.” (Post, far, 162)

- St. Paul: always speaking of community / of finding the best in one another
- community: life of caring and sharing ... grounded in Christ
- “Watch our dislikes as much as your likes.” – (112)

D. Jesus, Amos, St. Paul – lessons in meaning, awareness, community! The Eucharist is a story like the wind, the Wind of the Holy Spirit blowing in our lives.