

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on May 3, 2017



'Dream a little dream of me' – what a great rendition!

Let me riff for a couple of minutes
off what I heard in those lyrics and the music that carried them.

I remember the version done by Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie.

Like Maya and Sami,
they caught the longing for and the luxury of
having someone love you
with a fidelity that can withstand everything.

That's so fundamental to being fully human,
to flourishing with a joy that is irrepressible –
being loved and loving.

We've all got the stories and the scars left by the longings.
We're all still seeking the luxury of this kind of love.

Here's the wisdom of Jesus on this topic.
God loves you unconditionally,
accepts you in spite of whatever has gone before.
That's the nature of God
revealed throughout the best of the Jewish tradition
in which Jesus was raised
and that Jesus was trying to reform.

In essence, Jesus' summary of the law and the prophets,
love God, love others, and love yourself.

This is God's dream for all of humanity.
It is God's dream for the flourishing of all of creation.
And no music expresses this more powerfully than jazz.

The Brentwood Manifesto of the Christian Faith

How We See God, the World, Humanity, and the Future

*In the beginning, God created the world
and delighted in its diversity and development.
God created human beings
and nourished them to flourish in blessing all of creation.*

*But humanity rebelled, rejecting the limits of their power.
Their rebellion against God's vision of justice, peace, and joy
brought tyranny, suffering, and death.*

*God never tired of calling humanity home
to work in common to cultivate the well-being of the world.
Through the law and the prophets,
God's Spirit invited love of God, love of others, and love of self
as the empowering energy for engaging in this mission.*

*In a unique and decisive act of reconciliation and revelation,
God overcame our alienation and loneliness.
God took flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ,
the creation is restored to its original purpose.
God continues to craft the completion of this redemption.*

*Through the church universal, visible and invisible,
the Holy Spirit empowers people
to participate consciously in their reconciliation
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.*

*By God's grace in Jesus Christ through the work of the Spirit,
we know what it is to be loved and to love
amidst all the problems of the world.
We are equipped and sent to sow seeds of God's SHALOM
in all of our circles of influence.*

*In the end, God's love, healing, and forgiveness
will transform heaven and earth
and bring justice, peace, and joy to full realization.*