

CRIBBS NOTES-April 29, 2007

It is easy to feel small and insignificant these days as everything seems to be measured in mega meters. Big events capture headlines. Global activities leave us mesmerized. Large sums of money determine success. Everywhere we turn and everything we experience seems to have some attachment to BIGNESS! We look up on a clear day and see the sky is huge. We go to the seashore and the ocean swallows the earth. The world is presented to us as a big place. In order to gain recognition, we believe we must do something extraordinary. Anything less than gigantic just doesn't seem to measure up.

There is another reality. It is not the "reality" presented to us nightly on television where people are encouraged to behave badly in order to take advantage of each other. True reality takes place in the smallest environments among the least recognizable creatures. True reality occurs in nanoseconds and micro moments. Life requires consciousness. Such awareness takes place in the smallness of events; the details of our living experiences. We hear the psalmist offer a clear and simple instruction, "Be still and know..."

God is always present. In every element and in every corner, God is with us. To know God we must find that quiet time and sacred space that allow us to explore full mindfulness. There is intentionality involved in our desire to receive the gift of God's grace. We must achieve mindfulness in order to access God's great love. While we may have knowledge of God's goodness and mercy, we are invited to activate God's presence in our lives. That is how we begin to participate in the wondrous legacy of doing Holy Work.

Ancient wisdom instructs us to study the ants. Watch how they labor. Observe the flowers and the fluttering bees and butterflies. Go to the mountains and behold their majesty. Attend to the needs of orphans and widows; provide for the houseless and those who thirst and hunger. Join the outcast and become a part of communities engaged in the daily struggle for dignity, peace and justice. Listen.

A contemporary flaw of our society is the notion we have it all. We believe we are the envy of the world. Our race toward inescapable idolatry puts us on a fast track to disaster and imminent danger. Our failure to offer sufficient sustenance to the needy and cast blame on those impoverished, drives us into a sea of enormous threats and fear. Thus, we waste our lives and resources in a vain enterprise to shield ourselves from the absolute consequences of our designs, actions, and values. "We reap what we sow."

There is a muted cry, "**STOP!**" It goes unheeded. It is not heard. "**STOP!**" the scream for our attention is heightened. We do not obey. We go on, ever busy and ever rushed. Blinded by the darkness of madness, we continue to exploit the vulnerable and escalate production of weapons of mass destruction. "**STOP!** Be mindful of what is going on," the children of the world are saying to us.

God's business is about bringing forth life and creating environments where life thrives. It is our faithful response to take God's business seriously enough to make it our own. We can start by being mindful. That will lead us toward seeing life as it is: a true reality inviting us to come alive.