



Peace & Joy

Romans 5: 1-5

2010 Lenten Meditations

Written by Parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral / Compiled by The Daughters of the Holy Cross

Masthead courtesy of Susan Craig

Tuesday, March 2 **Mark 3:19b-35**

I am fortunate enough to have grown up on a small family farm with loving parents and doting grandparents who lived less than 100 yards away. I spent Saturday nights with my grandparents, and rode to church with them on Sunday morning. My parents, sister, and I ate Sunday dinners and Wednesday suppers at their house every week.

While I was a fairly normal eight year old who got into his share of mischief, there was nothing I could do that my grandparents would not meet with love, understanding, and forgiveness. I was loved.

My Grandmother kept a small coin purse containing several old coins that she had collected over the years. One of them was an old nickel that I wanted. I wanted it badly. Had I asked for it, she probably would have given it to me, but, instead, I stole it. While she was cooking, I took the nickel and ran back to my house with it. The thrill of having it was quickly pushed away by guilt. I felt terrible. I hid the coin. I couldn't look at it. Worst of all, I couldn't talk to or see my grandmother without feeling like I was the most horrible person in the world. I had separated myself from her love, and there was no forgiveness.

After what seemed like forever (two days), I took that horrible nickel back to my grandmother and told her what I had done. She, of course, forgave me. Not only did she forgive me, she made me feel as if I had done something courageous and admirable by coming to her. I knew that I was loved.

I believe that when we, the children of God, betray the Holy Spirit, we have separated ourselves from God's love and the possibility of forgiveness. As a result, we are guilty of eternal sin. There can be no forgiveness if we cannot ask for it. By returning to God and accepting the Holy Spirit, we can find that there is nothing we can do that will not be met with love, understanding, and forgiveness. We can know that we are loved.

Todd Bond

Todd Bond has been a member of Trinity for 16 years and is married to Wallis Crum, a life-long Trinity member. They have one child, Charlie, who is 9 years old.