

Coop's Scoops # 42 Friday, May 22, 2020

Ode to Dandelions

I love the golden flowers we think of as weeds. They were my first outdoor toys...making chains, buttering my chin, blowing fluff to the ends of the earth! I can see myself sitting in a back yard full of them, laughing with my four brothers and sisters and a baby beagle, just as content as any human beings could ever be.

I know some people "hate" them and work very hard to keep their lawns free of them, but for me, they are always welcome harbingers of spring and summer. They are able to take me way back when...hope you like the poem. My dandelions pic!

My childhood's earliest thoughts are linked with thee;

The sight of thee calls back the robin's song,

Who, from the dark old tree

Beside the door, sang clearly all day long,

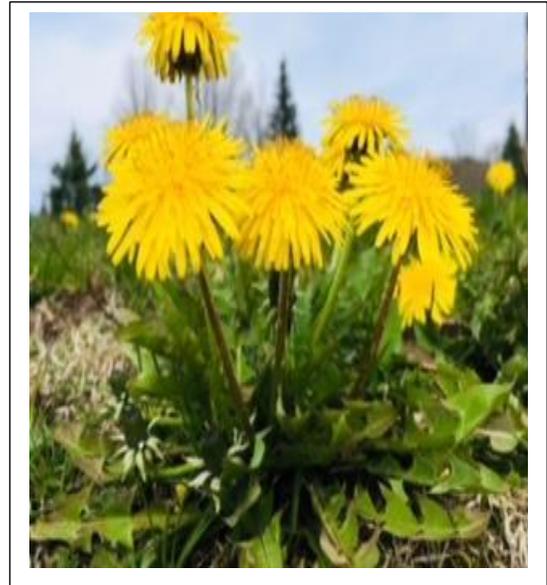
And I, secure in childish piety,

Listened as if I heard an angel sing

With news from heaven,

which he could bring

Fresh every day to my untainted ears



When birds and flowers and I were happy peers..

(Buttercups were great fun too! And who could forget "He loves me, He loves me not!")



Jokes for the Day!

- Sunday School Teacher: Where is Solomon's Temple?
Student: On the side of his head.
- A grasshopper walked into a bar. The bartender said "We have a Drink named after you! And the grasshopper said "Who would name a drink "Steve"?"
- Notice at workplace: "To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office. I will find you. You have my Word!"

- Jesus said, "Who do people say that I am?"

And his disciples answered and said, "Some say you are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elijah, or one of the prophets.

And Jesus answered and said, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple."

And Jesus answered and said, "What?" (yup, theology gone rogue!)

Your Scripture for today: 1 Samuel 16:1,6 ,7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. File your horn with oil and set out: I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.

When they gathered, Samuel looked upon Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord" But the Lord said to Samuel "Do not look upon his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Jessie made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said "The Lord has chosen any of these". Samuel said to Jessie "Are all your sons here?" And he said "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." Samuel said "Send and bring him for will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in....the Lord said "Rise and anoint him for this is the one". Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Homily: The Lord does not judge by outward appearances but by the heart! Take courage, everyone....God does not favour the outwardly beautiful, or strong, or tall, or rugged, or rich or mighty....God does not even particularly notice those things....God is concerned with the "heart" which stands before Him. Now by "heart" we do not mean the many chambered pump that keeps us living..."heart" means character; intent; longing; humility; dependence etc. In fact, you could call all of the characteristics of the Beatitudes the "heart" which God favours. We have to think about what "favours" means....it does not mean God "likes" a person more, or God "spends special attention to" or God "prefers". It means that God values hearts that can be used to serve Him as He invites everyone.....the culture would say "The good, the bad, and the ugly" ...I have always disliked that statement....but God's pleasure is tied to our behavior and to the character which we show in our dealings with other people.

It's important to remember that God also loves people of His character who happen to be beautiful, or rugged, or rich, or strong, or mighty....but that is not why they are loved. They are loved because God has chosen them, and called them to be His beloved sons and daughters. Everyone is eligible. There are no "people weeds" automatically tossed out by God.

David was not "better" than his brothers... he was chosen by God for a specific task for which his heart was better prepared and expressly made for

that task. Everyone has a “special” task to do for our Lord. Everyone is commissioned. “Go ye (all) therefore into the world...” didn’t exclude anyone who’s heart is set to love the Lord their God with all their heart and mind and soul and body. David, the young lad anointed to be King, David with the heart that pleased the Lord also penned in Psalm 51: 10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me”. Our hearts are not always, totally turned toward God...David failed, David sinned grievously, and David’s humility led him to beg God to change his inner being. We also are chosen, have our mission, long to be God’s servants and yet we also fail, and sin. We too need to ask God to create new hearts, and a right spirit within us. The good, great news is that we will never ever be denied. “I will in no wise cast out anyone who comes to Me”, says Jesus. And that settles it.

So “Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord” (Ps 31: 24). Remember that there is nothing you can do or have to do to make God love you. And there is nothing you can do whatsoever to make God not love you. He is love. He loves us. Period. But there are so many things we CAN do to make Him proud! And there things we should not do because they grieve His heart. Love remains.

Prayer for today:

From Francis of Assisi: O Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me a right faith, a certain hope, and a perfect love, understanding and knowledge, so that I may carry out your holy and true command. Amen.

From Richard Foster: O Lord, my God, form me more fully into your likeness. Use the circumstances of this day to form your will in me.

From the frustrations of this day, form peace

From the joys of this day, form strength,

From the struggles of this day, form courage,

From the beauties of this day form love.

In the name of Jesus Christ who is all peace and strength and courage and love.
Amen.

From Me: Thank you, and Yes! Amen.