

The speaker for the United Methodist Women's meeting was to give a program on seeing Jesus. She was apparently well prepared. Using art work from different artist in the world she had shown pictures of Jesus as an Oriental. There were pictures depicting Jesus as Native American. She included Jesus looking like a person from India. Also included were pictures showing Jesus as a black. Of course, she included the famous picture of Jesus by Saullman. The program did get the attention of some of our older adults. I was just walking down the hall, minding my own business when a small group of the older adults approached me about the program. They were not really happy with it. I reminded them that Jesus was Jewish and he mostly likely looked Jewish. Then came the big statement. "Well, you do believe that God is white, don't you?" These were members of my older adult group. I thought for a minute and then said, "You are right. Everyone knows She is white!" Not the answer they were looking for.

The 5th grade student was in art class and she was working hard. The teacher asked her what her picture was to be. She replied, "I am painting a picture of God." The teacher wanted to be affirming, but she just had to say – from her religious training – "Well, no one has ever seen the face of God. We don't know what God looks like." Undeterred, the student said, "Well, when I finish this picture they will."

I believe our text for today does invite us to consider a picture of Jesus.

You know what Sunday this is? For out children who have been in worship with us since September, let me talk about this Sunday. It is called Christ the King Sunday. It is the last Sunday in our calendar year as Christians. I know, January 1 is New Years Day, but for us, next Sunday, November 30 will be the first Sunday in our new year. WE have planned our worship around the life of Jesus. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. The church uses four weeks to prepare for the birthday of Jesus. We try to be more forgiving and giving. It is not enough to just get what we want for Christmas. We are called to consider our giving to others – helping with things and ideas that they need. The color for Advent is purple. We are getting to celebrate God coming among us a little child. Christmas Day. The color is white. We spend two weeks celebrating the birth of Jesus. Following Christmas we enter the season of Epiphany – Remember the star – the wisemen following the star? It is the story of God being made known to the whole world. We believe the wise men traveled a long way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They were different people from the people of Jesus. They were gentiles. The color for Epiphany is green – emphasizing the growth of God's Kingdom. Following Epiphany comes Lent. When the church finally set a date for Easter, it decided to use forty days of preparation, excluding the Sundays. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. That is why the date of Easter changes. The color for Lent is Purple – like Advent, it is a season of preparation. The color for Easter is white. Fifty days after Easter we celebrate Pentecost – the coming of God to us in the Spirit. The color is red and it is a big celebration. The season of Pentecost lasts the rest of our Christian Year. Today, Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the Christian year. The color is white – indicating a holy time of worship and celebration. Unfortunately, today, Christ the King Sunday has to compete with our civil holiday of Thanksgiving. And we seem to be more ready to offer thanks then to finish the year with Christ the King Sunday.

But our text for today reminds us of the importance of Christ in our midst. Our text for today calls us to consider a picture of Jesus that is important for us. Matthew has recorded this Parable of the Last Judgement. All the nations – that is ALL – not just the rich nations, not just the developed nations, not just the white nations, or the red or black or yellow – all the nations are gathered before God. It is a day to judge our faithfulness during the year as followers of Jesus, who leads

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PILGRIM C H U R C H

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us to God. The questions may not be the questions we are prepared to answer. "Come, you are blessed by God. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me water to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." And you know what the people said. "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry, thirsty, naked, sick or in prison and care for you." Jesus answers, "I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least in society, you did it for me." Do you think that is a good picture of Jesus? I do.

I remember we were going to prepare and serve food for the homeless. Someone suggested that we pray that the homeless people in the line would see Jesus through our acts of kindness. Our treating them like they were real people. I don't think that is a bad prayer – it is a good prayer. I do think there may be a better prayer we should had used. We should have also prayed that we would see Jesus in the face of the homeless people we were serving. Our parable for this Christ the King Sunday reminds us that Jesus is in the face of the hungry, the thirsty, the lonely, the sick and those in prison.

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