

Thursday after Ash Wednesday ~ 2/22

"Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

I have never known an animal that is more resilient and more able to figure out when they have landed in a life-giving situation than a stray kitten. In fact, I have often thought that if a cat discovers a home it can then proceed to leave an invisible mark on the house that only other cats can see. This mark lets every other stray know that if it is in need of a home this place has possibilities. With the first scrap of food or the first scratch behind the ears the kitten senses acceptance and within minutes he or she is at home. Cats seem to have a sixth sense about where life can be found and they will hold on to it with both paws.

In this reading from Deuteronomy we are told that life is right in front of us if we would but choose it. If we hold fast to God everything that we need will be given. But unlike the sensible cat that instinctively knows that his needs will be met at this new home, too often we turn directly away from that which we need so badly. We walk back out into the darkness rather than find security in the light.

To choose life in Jesus is sometimes too frightening for us to accept. Sure it means that we will be grace-filled and protected in the God's embrace, but we don't seem to be able to see just how important that kind of security is. We tend not to look deep enough to find the real essence of life. We get distracted with the temporary flash of goods and position and don't see the deep-rooted joy that can come only from living in the light.

Our stray kitten doesn't look around to see if the house that he or she has come to is modern, with all the conveniences. The kitty can be happy in an old farmhouse that offers no more than a good meal and the affection of the owner. All the rest is inconsequential.

If we look around and find that we are overly concerned about what kind of house or car we have, and if we find that we will do anything to be successful in business, then perhaps we would rather live in the darkness than in the light of God's love. During this season of Lent can you answer the question; "Am I choosing life?" It may be the most important question to answer honestly.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Could I be happy simply knowing that God is taking care of me? What more do I need?*
- 2. Do I feel more like a stray looking for a home or the stray that has found a loving home?*