

Third Wednesday of Lent ~ 3/14

"But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children."
(Dt. 4:9)

Much of what is now written in scripture was first passed on by word of mouth from one generation to the next. Great care was taken in relating the accounts found in Genesis and Exodus and other Old Testament books. Even the gospels were not written immediately after Jesus ascended into heaven. Jesus' life first filtered through the words and experiences of the first Christians. There were no computers, no communications satellites, nor any made-for-television docu-dramas airing immediately after the pivotal events of our salvation history. Yet those that passed on the tradition by word of mouth understood that there were certain elements that the next generation must receive. Even when the scriptures were written down on scrolls most of the people still depended on word of mouth to get the information either because many were unable to read or because copies of the Word were few and far between.

Today most of us can read the scripture. We don't need anyone to tell us what is in the Bible. But have we lost something along the way? How many of us can remember our parents ever sitting down with us and telling us the stories of scriptures or even sharing with us the stories of how God worked in their own personal lives?

The scriptures are still being written today in the hearts of all believers. They may never make it into print of any kind but they may be just as valuable as any written words.

When people who are important in our lives share with us how God has worked in their lives we will listen, we will remember. There are stories that my parents passed on to me about my grandparents that I treasure today not only because they were interesting to me but also because they tell me something about my own heritage and even about my own personality traits. I don't want to forget these. I think that it is important for my family to remember them as well.

When we are willing to tell our experiences of faith to family and friends we offer added proof of the glorious power of God working in the living scriptures of life.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Can I remember stories that my parents or grandparents told me about their relationships with God?*
- 2. Am I sharing with my family and friends the scriptures that are unfolding in my life?*