

Fifth Thursday of Lent ~ 3/29

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between Me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'" (Genesis 17:1-2)

Do you ever watch a movie and wonder what the hero or heroine would do after the climax of the film? Just what did Zorro do after he had defeated the cruel Spanish governor in California? What did Luke Skywalker or Princess Leila do after the evil empire was defeated? What becomes of the Hall of Fame athlete when he is too old to play anymore? Is there life after their moment in the sun?

There are people today who are fifty, forty and even thirty years of age who think that the best part of their lives is over. They have moved into the mode of just marking time until death comes to claim them. These folks could never imagine that God could be calling them to something greater than what they have already accomplished in life. Their scope of possibilities has dried up long before they have taken their last breath.

Perhaps Abram could have thought that God was just having some fun with him when He suggested that he would be the father of a great nation with descendants as numerous as the stars. After all, ninety-nine years of age is not the ideal age to begin thinking about raising a family. Abram could have felt that he was, in the words of an old tune that he was, "too old to cut the mustard anymore"! But at ninety-nine years of age Abram was still living. He had not folded up his tent. He did not believe that his best years were necessarily behind him. He was open to new possibilities even if on the surface they seemed rather ridiculous.

If our lives revolve around one goal, one achievement and if that goal is not to live life fully, then we are in for a long wait at the train station to the kingdom. The Spirit of God never stops offering possibilities for life and growth. Age is not a factor in the eyes of God. If professional success, momentary wealth or power is all that motivated we will end up like Alexander the Great who wept when he didn't have any more worlds to conquer. But we are called to be like Abram, we are called to be ready to jump into life whenever God offers the opportunity. Even if the only thing we do is spent what remains of our life searching for the deeper life within, we will find that we are generating new life not only within but all around us. Living life well is always going to be life giving to those around us.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. How open am I to the new adventures that God wants to offer me?*
- 2. What goals does it seem that God would like for me to pursue in life?*