

The season of Epiphany is a season of enlightenment. It is a season of illumination, of explanation, of clarification. Epiphany is a proclamation about who Jesus really is. It began when the wise men arrived after their very long journey to see Jesus. This epiphany is not just about Jesus and the wise men because the proclamation continues in our gospel reading for today.

For John, our reading is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The public did not have a clue as to who Jesus was. He hadn't done any teachings or healings. No demons had been cast out at this time, at least none that John had recorded.

John begins his gospel with the story of the wedding in Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine. John used this miracle as the first sign or miracle that Jesus did to reveal his glory so that people might believe in him. That act of changing water into wine caused people to take notice of Jesus for the very first time. And they began to wonder what he may be about.

When you stop and think about it, that is all that a proclamation is supposed to do. We proclaim who God is and what HE has done for us so that whoever might hear or see our proclamation might be able to experience God through us and believe. Our job is not to make people believe but to give opportunities for people to experience God and then the Holy Spirit will help them to believe.

So who is God? As a very basic understanding, God is love. John 3:16 proclaims, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

God knew that the only way in which HE could save us was to give up HIS son, who would give up HIS life, so that we would not have to die for our sins. There is no greater love than what God and Christ Jesus had demonstrated for us.

Love is what God is all about. God gave HIS son so that he could be in a relationship with us and give us the opportunity of eternal life in HIS heavenly kingdom. That is our goal. Once we die and leave this world, we will live forever in God's kingdom with all the saints.

What we do between now and then is our journey. While we are on this journey, God never promised us that we would not hurt or suffer. Suffering and pain is a part of life and no amount of praying or faith is going to keep us from hurting. But we pray and believe that God will be with us through all the pain.

Even while we are hurting, we are still proclaiming what God means to us and how HE helps us through life. Throughout the rest of this month, we are going to spend a little time on what it means to tell others about God. We begin with what God means to us and the very basic definition is that God is love. But there is so much more to who God is. God is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. God the Father creates, God the Son saves and God the Spirit sustains us in this life. God is the one who never gives up on us and offers us true forgiveness where HE forgives us and then forgets about what we did. God is the one who gives us strength to face everything in our life. And we are supposed to describe that to others.

This is where we get intimidated. We can talk our self out of sharing about our relationship with God in a heartbeat. There is something about talking about our faith in God that causes us discomfort.

But when we tell others about our relationship with God, we are talking about our own personal relationship with God. This is the main reason that our confirmands share faith statements when they are confirmed. At that point in their life, they should be able to share what they believe. That means that as adults, we too should be able to do the same.

As disciples of Christ, we proclaim. We tell others what God means to us. Sometimes that happens through our words and sometimes that happens through actions such as the wedding in Cana.

Epiphany is a season of enlightenment where we learn more about who Jesus really is. But people cannot learn if there is no proclamation. God calls us to proclaim through our words and actions so that others might experience HIM.