

A Moment of Oasis
Wednesday, May 06, 2009

I am quite fortunate to have grown up in the family I did. No, we were certainly not perfect. Nor did we have a lot of money.

My parents simply taught us that family was important. They taught us that hard work wouldn't kill us. They showed us that we were loved.

On those occasions when I feel and got hurt, when I scraped my knee or my elbow, my mother did what mothers for centuries have done. She scooped me into her arms. She kissed the affected area and asked if that helped it feel better. I never really had the heart to tell her that it really didn't take the sting away.

I guess the best part of running to my mom when I was hurting, was simply getting the love and attention that came with the kiss. That is what made me feel better. It was that moment of oasis of resting in my mother's arms that helped me to feel good.

I thought of this today, because of a passage I read from Matthew this morning. Jesus is in Jerusalem. It is during what we know of as the last week of his life. It was a time when he was frustrated by what he was seeing in the religious world around him. He was frustrated with how often the religious leaders missed the boat on seeing God right in their midst. Then he says, "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! . . . How often I have ached to embrace your children, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you wouldn't let me . . . (Matthew 23:38)."

This passage reminds me of how much God loves us and wants to embrace us. Yet, it is also a reminder of how easy it is to not let God embrace me.

When I let fear get the best of me that is when I am not doing a good job of letting God embrace me. When I let fear over the swine flu, or the economy, or even health issues squeeze out God's embrace, I am the one who loses out. What fears are you living with these days? What pains are you feeling?

Do you hear in this passage from Matthew up above, how much God wants to embrace you?

My hope today is that you will discover that moment of oasis of resting in the arms of our God who loves you deeply.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship,

through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.