

**February 7, 2016
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him.**

*When we bring our boats to the shore, leave everything and follow him,
we are not living from scarcity, we are living from abundance*

Living from Abundance

It is no accident that Luke's Resurrection account in 24:39 has Jesus saying, "*I am not a ghost! I have flesh and bones, as you can see.*" John in 20:27 has Jesus saying to Thomas, "*Put your finger in my wounds!*" In other words, Jesus is saying, "*I am human!*" - meaning he is wounded and resurrected at the same time. Jesus' risen body still carries his wounds.

So what is this saying? Resurrection is not just about "*eternal life in the future,*" it is about "*eternal abundance in the present life - now.*" As Jesus said in John 14:2-3, "*I have gone ahead to prepare a place for you. . . . I shall return to take you with me so that where I am you may be.*" God, that's good! So why do we not jump on this wonderful bandwagon and enjoy heaven now? Why do we have such difficulty accepting the notion of having "*eternal significance now - of living from abundance - now?*"

Living from Scarcity

"*Living from scarcity*" is not living from God's abundance, it is living from a small, calculating mind that gets caught in small stories which are usually less than half true, and therefore not really true at all. They are based on hurts and unconscious agendas that judge things in a very narrow way. The small self prefers to maintain order by sanctified violence instead of moving toward a higher order of love and healing - the heart of the Gospel. Sad to day, this is much of Christian history.

As long as we remain inside of a dualistic win-lose script, Christianity will continue to appeal to low-level and vindictive moralisms and myths and never rise to the mystical banquet that Jesus is offering us. The spiritual path - and life itself - will be mere duty instead of delight, "*jars of purification*" instead of 150 gallons of intoxicating wine.

Scarcity or Abundance

The Scarcity and Abundance that we are talking about is not the Scarcity or Abundance of material goods, it is the Scarcity or Abundance of the spiritual. Look at the difference in culture between the two:

† Scarcity starts with a “no”	vs.	Abundance starts with a “yes”
† Scarcity starts with complaint	vs.	Abundance starts with gratitude
† Scarcity punishes	vs.	Abundance forgives
† Scarcity is about “me”	vs.	Abundance is about “you”
† Scarcity lives in fear	vs.	Abundance lives in hope
† Scarcity is anxious	vs.	Abundance is peaceful
† Scarcity seeks “my rights”	vs.	Abundance seeks “your rights”
† Scarcity leads to hate	vs.	Abundance leads to love

South Fork Camp

I went out last Friday night to South Fork Camp east of Tillamook to participate in a 12-step Recovery Program run for the inmates. I felt such openness and honesty among them, a great sense of peace and inner freedom, all the while being in this room they couldn't leave. Living from Abundance!

When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Are we bringing our boats to the shore, leaving everything and following him?

We are about to enter the season of Lent. Lent is about “*living from eternal abundance in the present life - now.*” The fasting and penance of Lent are not about beating our bodies and spirits into submission, fasting and penance are about removing those aspects of our lives that keep us from “*living from eternal abundance in our lives - now.*”

In our politics - our economy - our society - our Church - in ourselves,
are we “Living from Scarcity, or are we “Living from Abundance?”