

FOURTH SUNDAY - C - JANUARY 31, 2016

I FINISHED A BOOK LAST FALL THAT I REALLY ENJOYED...

*THE NAME OF THE BOOK WAS THE "ROAD TO CHARACTER"....
INTERESTING IN A NUMBER OF WAYS....*

*FIRST OF ALL, THE AUTHOR, DAVID BROOKS, SAYS HE WROTE THE BOOK
TO SAVE HIS SOUL....AND I BELIEVE IT AND HE IS A POLITICAL PUNDIT,
POLITICAL COMMENTATOR -*

*I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PUNDITS WHO WRITE TO SAVE THEIR SOUL
AND, I WOULD ADD, I THINK HE IS WRITING TO SAVE THE SOUL OF OUR
CULTURE ALSO...*

*IN THE INTRODUCTION THE AUTHOR MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN
RESUME VIRTUES AND EULOGY VIRTUES...*

RESUME VIRTUES ARE THE ONES YOU LIST ON YOUR RESUME....

*THE SKILLS YOU BRING TO THE JOB MARKET AND THAT CONTRIBUTE
TO EXTERNAL SUCCESS....AND THEY ARE IMPORTANT*

HOWEVER, OUR EULOGY VIRTUES GO MUCH DEEPER....

EULOGY VIRTUES EXIST AT THE CORE OF OUR BEING....IN OUR SOUL

E.G. WHETHER WE ARE KIND, BRAVE, HONEST, FAITHFUL, AND ESP.

WHETHER WE ARE HUMBLE & WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM

E.G. HOW LOVING ARE WE.....

THE THESIS OF THE BOOK IS THAT OUR CULTURE IN THE USA TODAY

PUTS MUCH MORE EMPHASIS ON RESUME VIRTUES THAN EULOGY

VIRTUES

*THE AUTHOR STATES THAT THE CENTRAL FALLACY OF MODERN LIFE IS
THE BELIEF THAT RESUME VIRTUES CAN PRODUCE DEEP SATISFACTION
WHICH IS FALSE - HE BELIEVES - AND I AGREE*

RESUME VIRTUES CANNOT PRODUCE DEEP SATISFACTION....

ONLY EULOGY VIRTUES CAN PRODUCE DEEP SATISFACTION

LIKE LOVE....

*YOU PROBABLY WON'T NEED TO LIST YOUR LOVING QUALITIES ON YOUR
RESUME*

YOU MAY NOT FIND A LOT OF IT AT YOUR WORKPLACE

YOU PROBABLY WON'T FIND A LOT OF IT IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

RHETORIC OF 2016, WILL YOU?

*LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND
IT IS NOT JEALOUS, IT IS NOT POMPOUS,
IT IS NOT INFLATED, IT IS NOT RUDE, IT DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN
INTERESTS...
IT IS NOT QUICK TERMPERED*

*IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE A BIG HELP TO YOU
IN GETTING AHEAD IN THE WORLD...*

*BUT IT MAY DO WONDERS IN THE FORM OF DEEP SATISFACTION WITH
YOUR LIFE....*

*IF YOU ARE GOING TO COLLEGE YOU MAY NOT FIND A LOT OF IT ON
CAMPUS EITHER....*

*I WAS READING AN ARTICLE IN A PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL I STILL
SUBSCRIBE TO - AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "INSIDE THE HOOKUP CULTURE -
ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?"*

LET ME QUOTE: "WHILE LOVE, AT LEAST THE KIND THERAPISTS USUALLY TALK ABOUT HAS MORE TO DO WITH BEING THAN DOING, HOOKUP CULTURE REFLECTS THE BELIEF THAT LOVE IS SECONDARY TO THE PURSUIT OF EXTERNAL SUCCESS. SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT THE MAIN PROJECT - PREPARING FOR A "SUCCESSFUL" LIFE - INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS MUST BE NO FUSS, NO MUSS. OVER AND OVER, MY UNDERGRADUATES TELL ME THEY TRY HARD NOT TO FALL IN LOVE DURING COLLEGE, IMAGINING THAT WOULD MESS UP THEIR PLANS."

THE AUTHOR - A COLLEGE TEACHER GOES ON...THIS STRIKES ME AS A JOYLESS ROAD TO NOWHERE, GIVEN THAT THEIR HAPPINESS AS ADULTS WILL BE SHAPED AS MUCH AS, IF NOT MORE, BY THE QUALITY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS THAN BY THEIR CAREER SUCCESS....

GIVEN OUR LACK OF CULTURAL SUPPORT FOR A LIFE BUILT ON LOVING RELATIONSHIPS....IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR US TO FIND PLACES THAT DO SUPPORT AND VALUE LOVING RELATIONSHIPS..... SUCH AS OUR COMMUNITY - QAC COMMUNITY..

WE DO SAY EVERY SUNDAY AND WILL REPEAT AGAIN THIS SUNDAY BEFORE COMMUNION....

WE SHARE THE BREAD AND CUP....

AND WE PROCLAIM OUR WILLINGNESS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LOVE

LIKE ANY OF THE OTHER EULOGY VIRTUES YOU DON'T LEARN TO LOVE IN A HOMELY OR IN A CLASSROOM.....

YOU ONLY LEARN TO LOVE BY SEEING ANOTHER PERSON DO A LOVING ACT -

E.G. FOR ME RECENTLY, IT HAS BEEN SEEING MY SISTERS UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE LOVING SUPPORT TO THEIR HUSBANDS....

E.G. VISITING HER DYING HUSBAND FOR 6 MONTHS EVERY DAY IN A HOSPITAL...

ANOTHER TAKE CARE OF A HUSBAND WITH PARKINSON'S AND ANOTHER WITH ALZHEIMER'S.....

"LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND....IT DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN INTERESTS... IT BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS...

LOVE NEVER FAILS....

I SEE IT OVER AND OVER IN THIS COMMUNITY....

A SPOUSE TAKING CARE OF ANOTHER SPOUSE UNDER VERY TRYING CONDITIONS WITHOUT COMPLAINT - EVEN WITH JOY

I SEE IT IN A DAUGHTER TAKING HER MOTHER INTO HER OWN HOME DESPITE OTHER CHALLENGES IN HER LIFE...

I SEE IT IN PARENTS TAKING CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN - BOTH YOUNG AND EVEN ADULT CHILDREN, WHO NEED SPECIAL CARE....

WE PROCLAIM OUR WILLINGNESS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LOVE... THAT IS HOW WE BECOME LOVING PEOPLE....

SEEING AND EXPERIECING OTHER PEOPLE EXPRESSING LOVE AND CARE IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT WE SAY THAT RIGHT BEFORE COMMUNION AND WILL DO SO TODAY....

WE PROCLAIM OUR WILLINGNESS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LOVE... THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST IS THE EPITOME OF LOVE....

THIS YOUNG MAN, THE NIGHT BEFORE HE IS ABOUT TO DIE IN A

*VIOLENT MANNER, GATHERS HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS TO SHARE A MEAL,
IN A LOVING GESTURE HE WASHES THEIR FEET, HE POURS OUT HIS
HEART TO THEM, SAYING GOODBYE AND ASKING TO BE REMEMBERED...
ASKING TO BE LOVED.....*

*HE LEAVES THE MEAL AS A WAY OF REMEMBERING HIM, OF KEEPING IN
TOUCH WITH HIM, OF HIM STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THEM, OF KEEPING
UP THIS LOVING BOND.....*

*AS WE RENEW THIS BOND IN THIS EUCHARIST TODAY LET US DRAW UPON
HIS LIMITLESS LOVE, HIS BOUNDLESS LOVE AND STRENGTH AND
COURAGE. LET US PRAY THAT INDEED WE MAY GROW AS LOVING
PEOPLE AS A LOVING COMMUNITY....*

*THAT WE MAY GROW IN OUR WILLINGNESS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF
LOVE HERE AND NOW*