Personal Journey Towards Justice

As we look at the gospel story, we see the all-powerful and holy God choosing very humble ways to bring us salvation. God became incarnate through the Son, Jesus. He was born a small, vulnerable baby in a manager. He grew up in an ordinary family, in a neighborhood with a poor reputation. He was often disliked and ridiculed. Yet through taking on flesh and blood, God walked among us. He shared in our human experience—entered into it—and through his death and resurrection brought us into his eternal life.

Jesus' life models service—he didn't come to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). As we follow Jesus, we also become humble servants. We begin to recognize God's presence in all of creation—not in grand displays of power, but in our own vulnerability, and in the vulnerability of others. We come to see each person we encounter as bearing God's image. We see God actively making all things whole. And we find God in the places that need healing the most—the sick, the imprisoned, the naked. As we serve these people—the "least" in our society—we join in God's unfolding work of salvation, peace and wholeness. We do this naturally, in flesh-and-blood ways: giving food to someone who is hungry, giving water to the thirsty. We meet the tangible needs around us. And one day—perhaps with great surprise—we will discover we have in turn been serving God.

Respond

Practice seeing the people around you today - - neighbors, coworkers, and service providers. Take time in your interaction to see each one as a bearer of God's image. Now consider what kind of education each one likely got. If he has a good job, chances are good he got a quality education. Consider how his life would be different if he didn't know how to read. How would his life look in that case depending on whether or not his parents were educated. If she has a low-wage job, chances are good that she did not get a quality education. Consider how her life would be different if she had - - even if her parents didn't even know how to read.