

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018

SERMON NOTES

"Seeing the Unseen"

Exodus 33:12-23

Hebrews 11:1-16

Longing for a better country...

Evidence of things we cannot see...

*"Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."
(1 Corinthians 13:12)*

“God is the author of all new ideas, images and concepts of objects that we cannot see with our limited, mortal senses. Even when we stretch our imaginations to their furthest reaches, we have not stretched far enough. The Bible tells us that what God has in store for us has not even entered into our consciousness.”

Deidra Riggs

Show me your glory...

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

(John 20:29)

“Only when we risk getting lost do we find our way, and only when we stop trying to see our footsteps does our pathway become more certain. Encounters with God take place when we set out in a direction we hadn’t planned to take and are willing to give up going where we intended to go... You can be sure that wherever the right place, the appointed place, is, it is forward, one step ahead, where you cannot see, out in the deep water. There. See? Of course not.

You won’t see until you go.”

Renita Weems

“I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that my desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Thomas Merton

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- **How do you define “faith?”**
- **Describe a time that you had to take a “leap of faith.”**
- **How does only believing in what can be “seen” limit what God can do in our lives?**
- **What do you need more faith for, right now?**
- **Have there been times you can relate to the feelings expressed in the Weems and Merton quotes? If so, when?**
- **What is one thing you can do to stretch your faith in the “unseen” this week?**