

Second Hand Preacher

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Hebrews 10:5-10

We are often set in our ways. We have a tried and true way of doing something and we long to stick with it. At times on the farm, things were like this. As a kid the calendar moved slowly, but you started to get used to what was happening next. Chores, school, sometimes an activity, and chores again, being capped off with homework rounded out many a day. My Dad was a great example of rising above this. He was seemingly one step ahead. His planning and innovation helped our farm survive during even the toughest times. The only real constant is change.

Change is what the author to the Hebrews was talking about this week. The Hebrews lived in a state of constant Tradition. Dress, dietary law, and worship were established for many years. The Hebrews sacrificed animals and grains as a way to worship God. The Levites carried out the Traditions to be a reminder that the Hebrews were a chosen people. Then something changed. A Savior was born to us. God came to us in space and time, and we were changed forever. The audience of this letter is made up of faithful Jews who are now Christians. The focus has changed. They went from the many sacrifices to the one true sacrifice of Jesus. Blood sacrifice is no longer needed as Jesus died once and for all. The heart of the change comes with the Incarnation. Jesus comes to us with flesh so that he can be the new lamb. He is the everlasting lamb that came to save us.

We as Christians are in some way like the Hebrews. We get caught up in our own little world wallowing from part to party. Don't get me wrong, I like a good celebration, but we need to keep focused. Our job is to embrace the incarnation so as to celebrate Emanuel. God is truly with us in all things. His once and for all sacrifices meet us in our pains and our Joys. He wants us to reform our lives, but he takes us as we are. May those who read this blog have a realization that Christ is the true meaning of Christmas. May all of us have a blessed feast!