

“The Sublime Promise of God”

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores
John 14.23-29
May 22, 2022.
Westby UMC & Viroqua UMC

Do you remember the aspirations you had when you were little? What were your dreams? Did you dream of being a firefighter, explorer or doctor? I wanted to be a tortilla maker when I was 4 or 5 years old. I loved watching the machines work, how magnificent it was to see how the lady took the hot tortillas and weighed them. Also, my mom forbade me to chew gum, and the lady who sold tortillas near my house was always chewing gum, so it was my dream job.

Of course, and thank God, my aspirations grew. However, not all of my dreams, not all of our dreams come true. But regardless of that, having dreams and aspirations encourages us to work, focus and strive. Having dreams and proposing helps us set goals and helps us grow intellectually and emotionally.

"I have a dream" has been one of the most remembered speeches throughout the planet. This speech has inspired -and continues to do so- millions of people who are on their way to emancipation from so many individual and social slaveries that exist today. The words of this 20th century prophet continue to echo in hearts that dream of living in a world where no one is judged or discriminated against because of their racial or cultural status.

The prophet and social leader Dr. Martin Luther King Junior led oppressed, discriminated and impoverished communities to find new ways of being and living with dignity, freedom and respect. And this happened because he had a dream.

Dreaming and having visions is a widely used literary device in the biblical world. Through dreams and visions, God communicates with his people and inspires them to liberate themselves from slavery, to seek life and flee from situations of death, to

evangelize and form communities that live with dignity and in the love that corresponds to us as daughters. and children of God.

The apostle Paul, following a vision, feels the urgent need to get out of the familiar places and embark on a missionary journey to Macedonia. It is the journey with which the message of Jesus reaches what is now Europe for the first time. Who could imagine that such a vision would cause Paul to bring nascent Christianity to all of Europe, the land that would later become the center of Christianity!

John, to whom the book of Revelation is attributed, tells us the vision of a new Jerusalem. This time the vision is not about a mission, but about the future that surpasses the time and space that we live in today. It is the vision that transports us to the spiritual world that awaits us all and that our hearts yearn for and seek hard.

Jerusalem, the new city, where the totality of God's love flourishes and "the tree of true life grows"; where we will no longer be illuminated by the light of the sun, the moon or the stars, but by the total presence of God, Light of all nations. This is a sublime, mystical vision that opens our soul to accept that death is not an end, but part of a process of transformation towards that secure future promised by Christ and majestically revealed by John in this text of the Bible.

Jesus is the complete fulfillment of God's promise. All the dreams and visions of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus, which do not end with his death, but are resurrected and live in his people. His kingdom project lives in us - his disciples and his disciples - who follow in his footsteps.

As people of faith we carry the promise of God to future generations; This is precisely why Jesus promises us the presence of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be the promise of God, so that he lives within us and guides us towards that new Jerusalem.

In Jesus we see how God does not remain silent in the face of the uncertainty of his death. He speaks, promises and fulfills by sending us his Spirit. Today we live the promise of Jesus and we become the people of the era of the Spirit. That is why we live

our life with joy. The Spirit makes us choose God and recognize him as Abba, our Father, despite popular atheism and secularism.

We, your peoples, are also guided by the Holy Spirit, we also dream of a future of hope and have sacred visions. Accompanied by the promises of God, we fight and win, and we are sure that sometime, in the not-so-distant future, we will achieve the dreams that we have dared to have.

We are God's dream! The walking people of hope that goes out in search of true life, that sets goals so that many are reached by the promise of salvation and restoration.

Let us pray that the Spirit who lives in us continues to make us dream and have visions that inspire us to conquer life with faith, to walk with dignity and to be the people who sow hope. May the dreams of God make us dream to see and reach the new Jerusalem that awaits us. May we be inspired and inspire those who come after us, those who want to live and believe like us. Let us get ready to be renewed with the power of the Spirit in this approaching Pentecost.