

## **Weekly Bible Study group – June 3, 2009**

### *This week's reading assignment: James 5*

Reflection by Bob Zurinsky, SPU Center for Worship

This week's scripture reading reminds us that we're waiting for something... the Lord's coming!

All year at group, we've been learning about the "great story" that God is writing in all of creation. And the reason we've been learning that story is so that we can truly understand how we fit into the big picture. Are we all just drifting aimlessly through life? As we sit here in the year 2009, are we isolated from those who have gone before us and those who will come after? Do we remember anything from the past that has relevance for what we do now? Does the future drive our mission today?

Realistically, millions and millions of people in our world—all around us—really are just drifting through life, disconnected from any story bigger than themselves. Maybe that describes us too. But the Christian faith offers us something better than that. The Christian faith tells us that there's a master plan, and that history has a purpose. That we're coming from somewhere, and going toward somewhere. This means that even as individuals, we are not left to drift. We have purpose! We have identity! We have mission! Here's the very basic outline of the story that we're talking about tonight:

- God created everything. It was good. All parts of creation were designed to live in openness, harmony, vulnerability. Naked and without shame.
- The reality of the world today is one of brokenness. Walls are built where there should be nakedness. Selfishness has distorted our desires and actions. But God, in his mercy, hasn't left this world isolated in its own suffering. God chose to enter it. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, living all of the ambiguity and brokenness all the way to the point of death. God himself bears our burden.
- What happened next is the climax of all of the history of the world. Paul says it like this in 1 Cor. 15: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive!"
- Christ's resurrection was just the beginning! We too shall be raised. Death and brokenness do not have the final say in God's creation – in his sovereign power God will save that which he has made. This is our future, and our hope and power to live lives that make a difference in the present!