

As many of you know I wound up with a major kidney infection right after Christmas that took me to Morristown Hospital on New Year's Eve, surgery a few days later and then a two week stay with a bunch of new friends. And now, almost a month later, still a bit of a slow journey back to normal. But a journey none the less. And I am so appreciative to you folks for your cards, notes, prayers and support and particular thanks to our staff and Council and particularly Cliff and KW for making a very difficult situation much easier. And for all the down side of these last 6 weeks, one of the huge pluses has been that early in January Carol began full time child care for our grandson, Andrew Joseph. She begins each day around 7 heading to her mom's and getting her set for the day, and then she heads home to take care of Andrew and me. Getting her two boys fed and napped.

One of the neat things of having Andrew with us each day is seeing him play with all the wonderful toys that they have for little ones now. He has his saucer that is filled with stimulation. His high chair with a bunch of toys to attack. And one of the first things we saw for him to play with was a floor map with overhanging arches and again, all sorts of toys hanging on. And as I watched him play with that wonderful creation, he'd hit the rattles and pull on the strings, but the one item he came back to again and again was his mirror. He'd look at it...he'd talk to it...again and again, that mirror became a focal point. So too with the toys on his saucer and on his high chair. He'd hit them all, but then he'd just stare at that mirror. And it hit me, my Lord there we are. All kinds of stuff around us, and sadly too often we miss it, because we, like little Andrew, focus on ourselves, and our world.

We have great lessons today that conclude the Epiphany season and get us ready for Lent on Wednesday. All of them talk about God's glory being shown to God's people. And they reach a climax in our Gospel lesson. When the disciples encounter the glory of God up on that mountain with Jesus, they decide it would be good to camp out there and bask in that glory. But this is a turning point in the Gospel. For from this moment on, they are headed to Jerusalem and to the passion of Christ. Rather than sit and stare at their own little mirror, they are called to listen in a noisy world; to observe in a cluttered society; to minister in an indifferent community.

You ask a lot of people about where they see God and sadly, too often they've missed it all because of their self focus. Too often they will talk about their mountaintop experiences in nature or God knows where. And sadly, they miss those wonderful moments where the glory of God is shown in servant ministry that forever changes the world and lives.