

Seeing, Hearing, Remembering
By Peggy Guerrero

One of the things I love most about reading a newspaper is that it includes comics. While some people consider them to be the “lite” part of news, there is usually some wonderful insight that is presented very simply, as well as humorously. One recent comic strip featured a young brother and sister standing on the ocean shore. She is facing away from the water and holding a large shell up to her ear. Her brother is facing the ocean. He exclaims to her, “Just look at those waves?” She replies, “I know, right? I wish they could stop so I could hear the ocean in this shell!” Cute, and often true.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus asks his followers more than once if they really see, if they really hear. In Chapter 8, Jesus has just fed thousands of people with only a few loaves of bread and a few fish. He asks his confused disciples, “Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember...?” Miracles are occurring all around the followers of Jesus and they do not see them or hear them. Jesus is feeding his followers, dazzling them with the love of God, nourishing their spirits with words of life, and they don’t hear or see.

He is asking us the same thing, “Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear?” And do we remember? Do we recognize the miracle of the sound of waves, the feel of dirt beneath our feet, the smell of rain in the air? Do allow ourselves to be nourished by God’s gifts of thunderclouds, of the flash of a flycatcher, the deep breath of cool morning air? Do we see and hear the holiness in each other, even when it looks “different?”

It is tempting to give in to discouragement, to let fear and cynicism cloud our vision. This is true not only in having eyes and ears to see and hear the good of the natural world. We can fall to the temptation of fear and cynicism in seeing and hearing the goodness of our human family. God is ministering to our spirits every moment. Challenges in life sometimes make it difficult to truly see and truly hear. God wants us to remember the depth and breadth and height of the love that God has for us. So go ahead - breath, look, smell, hear, touch - it’s worth the time and effort to let God nourish us with the miracles that are all around.