



The Redemption of Scrooge

Date: Friday, Dec 14, 2018

Title: Heart Transplant

Text: [Mark 6: 49-52](#)

But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost and cried out:... Then he got into the boat with them and wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. (Mark 6:49-52, NRSV)

Scrooge's journey with the Ghost of Christmas past makes clear that he needs a new heart. Somehow, his heart has been hardened. He has no real compassion or care for anyone else. His one motivation in life is money. To put it that way makes it seem like Scrooge is the only one who needs a heart transplant. Truth is, we all do. Even the disciples of Jesus had such a need.

Shortly after Jesus miraculously fed 5000 men plus women and children with someone's lunch, the disciples found themselves in a boat that was being stormed whipped in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, at night. They were terrified, to say the least. Unexpectedly, Jesus comes to them, walking atop the storm and waves that had them terrified. He speaks his peace to them: "Take heart! It is I. Do not be afraid." Don't miss this: they first thought he was a ghost and were even more terrified. Sometimes, the unexpected coming of the Lord is terrifying. "Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid."

When Jesus entered the boat, the storm ceased, and they were astounded. They did not understand about the loaves because their hearts were hardened. They could not understand that this Jesus who fed the thousands also has power over nature. We don't know *how* their hearts became hardened. What we do know is that they, like us, and Scrooge, need new hearts. Which is exactly what God promises. God is changing hearts, replacing hardened unresponsive hearts with new supple hearts. If Scrooge can be redeemed, so can we. Thanks be to God.

Thought to ponder: A new heart for you!! A transplant only God can perform. Receive it.

Prayer: We confess that we are inured to chaos, O God. We are well accustomed to fear and scarcity, so we do not easily discern your transformative power. Make our hardened hearts supple once again, so that we might be prepared to celebrate the Lord of abundance. Amen¹

¹ In great reliance on *Celebrating Abundance* by Walter Brueggemann. P. 30-31