

Conflicts in Harmony First Week of Advent Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:15 AM
Ls 11:1-10; **Lk 10:21-24** (In Christ all those conflicting powers which are natural among people can find their resolution and reconciliation.)

“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

Now why is Jesus saying, prophets and kings? Why doesn't he say lots of people? Lots of people have desired to see what you see, but did not see it—that would make sense, but he doesn't say that. He says “prophets and kings.” The reason is that **the vision of prophets and kings are really on the progress of nations.** Kings are leaders of nations, and prophets are messengers sent, primarily to Israel, as a whole about the behavior, the conduct, of the nation as a whole. So this is the level on which kings and prophets operate, you might say, the international level. And **the expectation was that on an international level God would send his messianic leader from on high, from the heavens, and there would be a sort of vindication of Israel's national desires.**

But Jesus' point is that that isn't actually what's going on. **There is something else going on that actually is a fulfillment of what people really desire, but they don't see it.** The ways of God are not the ways of humanity. The thinking of God is not like the thinking of humanity. So as people look to their rulers and their leaders and their prophets for direction, they are really looking in the wrong place. It's right in front of their very eyes, but they don't see it. **God has come into our lives in the person of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit,** and this makes available to us something that is actually completely unearthly. It is the power of God, the inner life of God himself.

And **the inner life of God creates among even people a situation that is actually improbable and unrealistic, described in the first reading where animals get along peacefully.** Well, that's not nature. In nature animals eat each other. But Isaiah says, no, on my holy mountain the leopard and the kid will lie down together, and so on. This is possible now in Christ only. **In Christ all those conflicting powers which are natural among people can find their resolution and reconciliation.**

So the holy mountain is really an image of the Church. **The Church is called to be a place where people live in peace.** Lion people live in peace with calf people, lamb people at peace with wild people, all because everything, all natural inclinations, have been brought together and reconciled in Christ. **So the aggressiveness and the passivity of human beings come together to serve one another.** This is an image of the kingdom as is the Ark. Noah's Ark was another image of the Church, how **the different aspects of nature actually can work in harmony.** We don't see it; yet again, "many kings and prophets have longed to see what you see, but did not see it." We don't see it either because we are not looking at Christ. **When we look at Christ and we look at the work he does among people and the power of the Spirit at work, then we do see it.** We do see the wolf and the lamb lying together in the Church, in the community that Christ has developed. And this Church is meant to be a magnet attracting, and yet still many do not see. So this is a work at hand, to open the eyes of the blind. This was Jesus' work. This is the work of his Church.