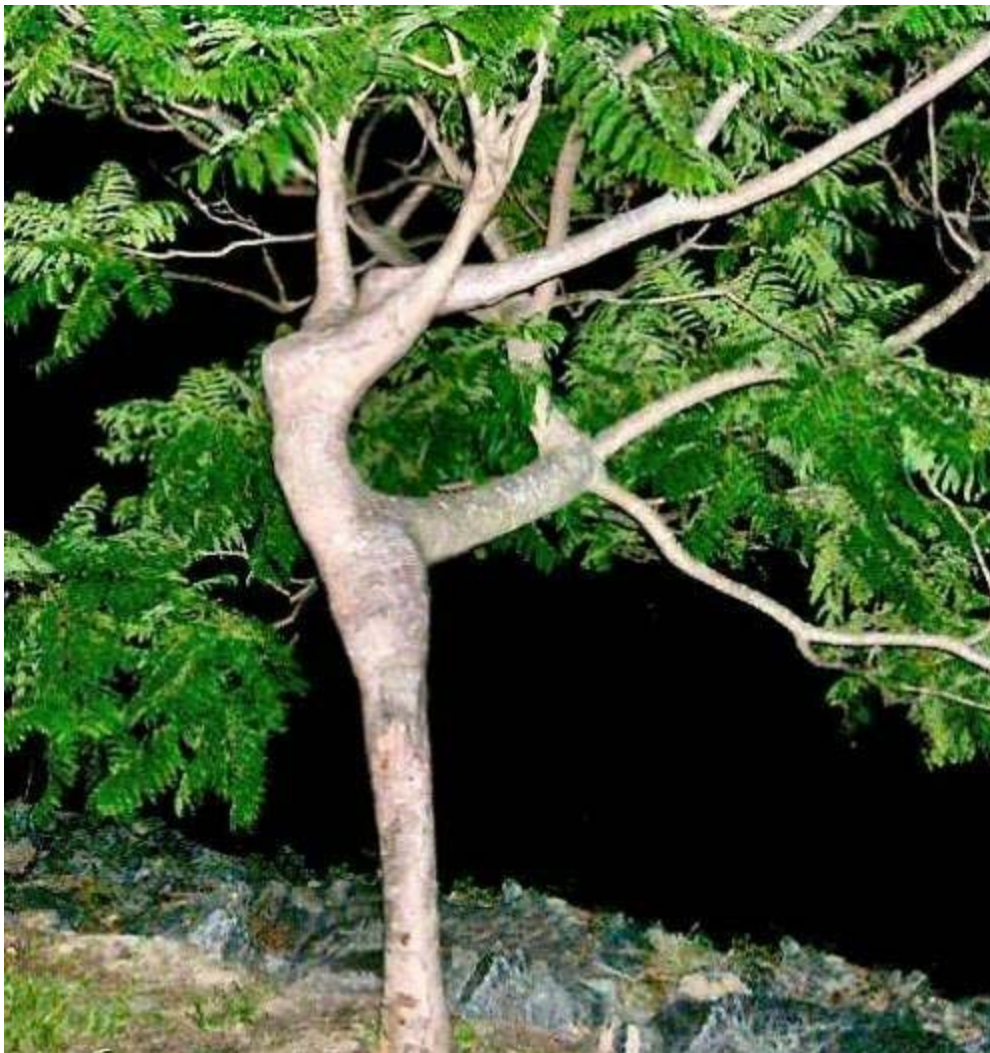


“LOOK AT ALL THE TREES”

A Sermon Series for Lent



From homiliesbyemail.com

By Bass Mitchell

-Contents-

Title	Texts	Time
Look at All the Trees	Luke 21:29-33	Lent 1
The Tree of Life	Genesis 2:9; 3:22-24; Revelation 22:1-5, 14	Lent 2
The Tree of Knowledge	Genesis 2:1-17	Lent 3
Pleasant to the Sight	Genesis 2:4-9; Luke 23:33-43	Lent 4
And Good for Food	Genesis 1:12, 29-30; 2:4-9	Lent 5
Raise Your Palms	1 Chronicles 16:28-34; Luke 10:25-28; Luke 19:28-40	Lent 6
Under the Olives of Gethsemane	Matthew 26:20-30	Holy Thursday
The Easter Tree	John 20:1-18	Easter
<i>Bonus: A Tree Is A Lot Like You and Me</i>	Psalm 52:8; 92:12; Jeremiah 17:7-8; John 15:1-8	Sunday After Easter or in Place of One of the Above
<i>Second Bonus: Blooming in Babylon</i>	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Another Sunday After Easter or in Place of One of the above

(slide) “Look at All the Trees”

Text: Luke 21:29-33

“Look at all the trees,” Jesus says.

If you spend very much time reading the Scriptures, you know what it's like to come across a phrase that will not let you go. For some time now I have not been able to get out of my mind that phrase of Jesus, “Look at all the trees...” When Jesus says something, it is wise to take it to heart, especially when you cannot get away from it. And so I have been looking at the trees, listening to them, walking among them, opening my spirit, my heart, my mind to what God would teach me through them. I am astounded at what I am seeing and learning as I “look at all the trees.”

God Speaks to Us Everywhere

One of the things I have learned is that (slide) God's truth is all about us. Jesus sought to awaken and sharpen our spiritual sensitivity to the many ways God comes to us, teaches us, speaks to us. And look how he does it – just about every teaching of Jesus is taken right out of everyday life - through pointing to (slide) a child, a fish net, a lamp, a coin, a mustard seed, a loaf of bread, a cup, sheep and even trees. In all his teachings he tells us, (slide) “Look. Listen. Live in great expectation of seeing, hearing, being encountered by the living God everywhere you are.”

Babcock, the writer of the hymn we sang this morning, (slide) “This is My Father's World,” knew this great truth. Almost each day of his life he started with a walk out in nature. When he got back one morning his children asked him, “Father, what are you doing?” He answered, “Out enjoying my Father's world.” From those walks he wrote this great hymn that sings of how nature proclaims God's praise and that he hears God pass in every blade of rustling grass. He had taken the words of Jesus to heart and learned to look at the trees, to listen to the grass, to look through eyes of faith, so that everywhere he looked, he got a glimpse of God's glory and truth.

To develop such spiritual sensitivity and help others do the same has been and continues to be a driving force in my own faith journey. What I desire for my life and for yours is not to merely seek God on this holy day, this Lord's Day, but to seek and know God's presence, to hear God's voice every day, for every day is the Lord's Day! This place is truly holy ground, for God is here. But every step you take out there is also holy ground, for God is there, too! This is *your* Father's world! So it cannot help but testify to him, if we look and listen.

Martin Luther said, (slide) “God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on the trees, and the flowers, and clouds, and stars.”

Joseph Campbell said, (slide) “God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, ‘Ah!’”