



Monday Musing: October 12th, 2026
Details...

In the forest there is so much to see. There is a breadth of beauty in trees, plants, flowers, just green everywhere coming up through the spring and summer, then amazing colours in the fall, and finally in the winter, the blanket of white snow. When we attend to the details though, we see nests in trees, holes in the ground for burrowing, and tiny footprints of birds, squirrels and chipmunks. Spider webs glisten in the sun only when caught on just the right angle. And sometimes, when we've been really quiet, we have seen deer. We've learned to pay attention to the details in the forests that tell us more of what is there. And the forests become alive and ever more beautiful. The truth of the life in the forests lies in the details.

When sitting with someone who is upset, and just not able to say why, because it is so painful or so deep within their memories or their current lives, the gift we offer is to wait. We wait offering a ministry of presence and silence with compassion. Sometimes this can provide the invitation, should they want, to share the details. The truth of their suffering is in the details of their story.

I recently sent a very important email explaining a situation that has caused a lot of anguish. The person I sent it to, did not read it thoroughly, but must have scanned it with their eyes, or only read the first few lines, and assumed they knew what the rest was about. They were wrong. They forwarded it to where it didn't need to be, and all because they didn't read the details. The truth of the situation lies in the details I provided.

Last week a few of us gathered to talk about the soap opera stories of Genesis. We talked about what was taught in Sunday school, and then I offered the continuation of those stories, of Lot and his daughters, and Judah and Tamar. Those stories have so much more to say when read in full and not in part, not abbreviated or sanitized. The invitation offered to us is to explore the ancient world and the meaning of those stories in their time. The truth of the Genesis genealogical stories lies in the details that then impacts the truth in the genealogies of the New Testament.

It really is important when reading a biblical story to ask: why might this have been so, and then, what don't I know. The answers are important. The questions are important in pretty much every aspect of life. The answers give the details that, well, the truth lies in the details.

Right now, we're in election mode in Ontario. Many of us are receiving information at the door, or in the mail, or attending debates, or seeing information on signs. Each of

these promotional avenues is limited because of content, space, or time. When we receive this material, we need to ask: why might this be so, and, what don't I know. It really is important because the truth is in the details, not the slogans, headlines, or promises.

We have such wonderfully made brains. The scriptures encourage us to use them, to seek wisdom. We do so when we think critically and ask questions. As Jesus said, "The truth will set you free," perhaps because misinformation, or not enough of information, can trap us. And for me as I've found, the truth wherever and whenever I seek it, it is found in the details.

Prayer

Holy God of truth, may our eyes be opened to see,
And our ears opened to listen, may our hearts be open to feel,
May we, attend, and ask for details, that we might know
The truths of the way things are, and have been,
The truths of your presence through the ancients' contexts and our own.
May we use the wisdom we seek and find,
And live with and within a wider, deeper, longer,
greater understanding of all that is. Amen.

Scripture this Week

Exodus 33:12-23	God speaks to Moses face to face as a friend.
Psalms 99	God is a ruler who delights in justice.
I Thess 1:1-10	We always give thanks to God for you.
Matt 22:15-22	Give to God the things that are God's.

TR Question (theological reflection)

Observing and counting the rings of a tree tells us about the weather patterns through the years. How does learning about the socio-historic context in which our scriptures were written help us to know more about the story of our God through millennia?

May you hold hope in your hearts, and peace in your prayers, as we move through this changing, challenging times,

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