

Yesterday we meditated for a while on the deep mystery which God is for us, which entails the mystery of his purpose and the mystery of our obedience. We are indeed most at risk when we become authorities about God, and think we have understood these mysteries.

Abraham “put his trust in God, and this trust was found to make him righteous.” But his deeds did not match his declared faith. Again and again Abraham resorted to human stratagems to accomplish his notion of the will of God. As long as he filled his life with these fakes, there was no room in it for the real deeds of God. His plans all came to nothing until he began to trust God alone.

Today Jesus warns us against the same thing. We must be concerned to do the will of God; and *what that means is still mysterious*. The psalms speak of this most movingly:

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes;
I have not gone after things too great, nor marvels beyond me.
My eyes like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his Lord.

On the day when we desert that attentiveness to God, replacing it with our busy competence and our sense of what is right and wrong, we are at risk. We become wild cards, piling up religious authority and practice, taking all things into our hands, planning to embody what pretends to be God’s wisdom, and in fact is only hunger for earthbound human power.

The irony is that this industrious faking uses every category of religion, in a vast structure of speciousness and chicanery. It can all look very good to human eyes; but it is worthless in the eyes of God, whose only requirement is that we should listen to him with all our heart.

On this obedient foundation the house of faith is built. It is irreplaceable by any imitation.

We ask for the gift of true submission to God
and the trust which will give us peace.