

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 4/20/20

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus." - Acts 4:13



This is a black-capped chickadee, a very common bird where we live. In fact, when we put seeds in our bird feeders, you can bet the first birds to arrive and the last birds to leave are the chickadees. They are constant in their diligence to feed and they show no fear of any larger birds they encounter. Small but feisty would describe them. I love these little guys even though they are so common. Christians throughout the ages could also best be described as common people. Most of us are not exceptional, not the richest, not the most talented, and not the most famous. And yet those early Christians managed to astonish those around them by their boldness, their humility, and their love for those on the fringes of society, traits by the way, that they had learned from Jesus. This is a humbling question that Christians today need to ask ourselves. Can others recognize that we have been with Jesus, that we reflect his character? The Christian faith is more than assent to certain doctrines, or membership in a certain denomination, it is a trusting relationship with a person. It is the life of God in the soul of man. It results from a new birth, a new creation, a transformation of the heart. And those who have experienced this transformation, even though they are common, are now reflecting the One in whom they have entrusted their all. So don't judge Christianity by all those who wear that label, but by those who show in their lives that they have been with Jesus. Chickadees are remarkable creatures even if they are common. So are true Christians. - John