

Children's Message
12.9.07

Sometimes when I'm reading the Bible I find the craziest things written in there! This one is just a great one- it actually says that a wolf and a lamb will live together and a lion and a baby goat will live together. And I thought, "Right! They might live together- but not for long!" Really, who has ever heard of that? A mean old wolf and a cute little lamb living together peacefully- crazy, that's what that is!

But, when you really stop and think about it- that would be pretty cool, wouldn't it? A big, beautiful lion living peacefully with a baby goat. Yeah- that would be neat.

And you know how most Bible stories are written: what the words say, might mean something a little different, if we take the time to think about what God is trying to tell us. So, my best guess is that God isn't really talking about lions and wolves and lambs and baby goats at all. I think God might be talking about people. God might be saying that people who aren't getting along, who are fighting, might be able to live together peacefully. But it makes you stop and wonder: who's the lion and who's the baby goat? Hmmmm.

I guess there are lots of ways of looking at this. Like wars. That's when countries aren't getting along. God is saying that we need to live together peacefully in our world. Wow. That sounds tricky- I mean countries have been having wars as long as...as long as there have been countries! And who's the lion, who's the lamb? How can we do it? How can we have peace? God is clearly trying to tell us that a world with peace is what is right and what God wants.

And we can also look at this passage on a smaller scale. Like in our own families. Sometimes families don't get along. We might have a big fight with a brother or sister- maybe it even lasts for days and days, and no one will talk to each other and no one wants to make it better. When we're in one of those fights- we know for sure who's the wolf and who's the lamb. Certainly your brother or sister is the big, bad wolf and you are the poor, innocent, little lamb! But God is telling us clearly, once again, that no matter who's the wolf or who's the lamb- we need to come together and live peacefully, without terrible fighting.

And truly, we can look at this passage on even smaller scale. Sometimes we have a fight right inside ourselves. Sometimes our hearts are not at peace. We might have worries and sometimes we may doubt ourselves and sometimes we might want to do something, even though we know it isn't right. My guess is that it would be pretty hard to tell which part of ourselves is the lion and which part is the baby goat. But again, God is calling to us, telling us that we need to live peacefully.

Right now, we are in the middle of a wonderful season of the church year- the season of Advent- when we are awaiting the birth of Jesus, also known as the Prince of Peace. I can't think of a better thing to do during this season than to be a peacemaker: bringing peace within ourselves, within our families and within the world.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?