

Peter M. Antoci  
 C14 Track 1  
 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 ; Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 ; Luke 12:32-40

---

*Seeking a Homeland*

---

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for ... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out ... he looked forward and ... received power. They were strangers and foreigners ... seeking a homeland ... a better country* (Heb 11)

Sixth months into 2025, over 120 million people (1.5% of the earth's total population) are refugees. 26 million of them are climate disaster refugees, the rest have lost their homes from war and political persecution. It is the highest number of displaced persons in human history. Contrary to popular understanding, the United States is not even in the top 15 hosting countries. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi has noted: this "is a stark figure -- sobering and alarming ... It's a record that should never have been set."

If the Letter to the Hebrews is to be taken seriously, Abraham and Sarah are the ancestors of everyone who believes in their God: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Over 4 BILLION people worship the God of two MIGRANTS who journeyed out, seeking a homeland – a better country. The God of Jesus of Nazareth, who said he had 'no place to lay his head,' is a God of those who journey in faith: Who journey out of what is familiar; who leave behind what has been; who look ahead to that *better country*.

*Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom...."*  
 (Luke 12)

The Kingdom of Heaven. That is why Jesus left his home in Galilee. That is why he 'set his face to Jerusalem.' THAT is what he wanted to bring to birth; to give us a future. It was his north star, and his pearl of great price.

Where is home for you? Is it a place? Is it the place where you grew up, or went to school, raised a family, or live today?

Or is *home* a relationship, something that moves with you wherever you take it? Is home the love you found in a parent, another relative, a friend, or a partner?

Is *home* a memory? That is to say, is it a place your heart and mind return to over and over? For some people that memory is a happy place; for others it is a memory they spend a lifetime trying to redeem. Is it a place without justice lamented by Isaiah ? Or is a place flowing with milk and honey sought by Abraham?

Today's scriptures confront us with a different version of *home* entirely. It is neither a place, nor a relationship, nor a memory – ALL of which have deep roots in the past. What is so counterintuitive about this set of scriptures is that home is neither someplace in the past, nor the present. HOME is a place in the future. It is a FUTURE point on the compass, a reference from the point of view of God's GRACE, and not from OUR experience. The hard part is not to so much believing in this better country. The hard part is in trying to grasp its traces HERE. That is to say: The Kingdom of Heaven begins here and now - not elsewhere, and not later. Do we want to know what HELL looks like? Well, we don't have to wait for the future to find out. Some people live in it already. Do we want to know what HEAVEN looks like? That TOO does not lie behind some mysterious veil. As Jesus taught we can find it if our heart is set there NOW.

But it is not inevitable! Jesus uses the striking metaphor of a THEIF for the coming of God's Kingdom:

*If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming.... SO: Be dressed for action ... You **must** be ready... the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.* (Luke 12)

While Grace is our north star, our future compass point, there are still things we can, and MUST do, to bring just a bit of heaven into the life of this world. We CAN act upon grace now. And like Abraham and Sarah, we CAN HAVE FAITH in a HOMELAND we are all seeking. Which is why Jesus encourages us:

*Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* (Luke 12)

But all of this depends upon where we look, or as Jesus said: *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*. Like Abraham and Sarah: we are ALL seeking a homeland. Like them, and all migrants, we have to be 'dressed and ready for action' – maybe there's something we can learn from them.