



SIEBENQUELL

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# Where shall we find hope?

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On a Monday evening I attended a lecture by Wilhelm Bruners. His topic was “Where to are we dying?” The evening was impressive in every way. With deep theological and human insight, Willi Bruners interpreted the images of life on this side of the grave in order to see what they hint at about life on the other side of the grave. In doing so, he employed a wonderful quote from Reinhold Schneider. „For the Last Things there remains only parables, and the parables are always from the same material as we are. They are formed from the earth, and if something really exists which contradicts every, and really every experience, then no parable can touch it. The parable opens the way, it pulls back the curtain behind the things; it cannot illuminate the background, which now is laid open; it only shows that it exists.” How true! The images, the parables, are always taken from the life experiences of humans, from the “same material as we are”.

The thoughts which Willi Bruners shared and illuminated were simply grand. But for me, the most touching moment came at the end of the evening. The presentation ended with two poems. At the end of the question period a woman asked, “Can you tell us who wrote the two poems you read at the end?” Quietly, smiling, Willi Bruners raised his hand. When Georg Falke thanked Willi Bruners at the end of the evening with elegance and fine words, he told him of a friend who reads his poem at the end of every funeral and how many good, positive and personal comments he receives after each burial.

John Shea writes, that narrative theology „relates experiences in story form, views life from an ultimate perspective, wonders how graciousness can be affirmed when it so readily mixes with viciousness, watches the subtle moves of religious language in the formation of personality and community, cherishes the Bible for images more than for thought, and cannot stay away from Jesus no matter how hard it tries". (Stories of Faith, p.10).

The evening began with great images of the biblical stories and it ended with the great images of a biblical storyteller. For some questions, indeed, for many questions of human life, we will have to learn to cherish the images more than the thought. For as grand and impressive as the thoughts were, it was the images that gave us hope, in the hall and, more importantly, next to the graves of our beloved.

May Will Bruners images awaken Easter hope in your as well.

### **easter III**

one day

the stones will lay lightly

on our graves

and lightly we will arise

from the dust and

cross the threshold

with winged steps

a wind will carry us

into the circle

of the waiting and

bread and wine will pass

from mouth to mouth

### **The Dead**

are one home

ahead of us

while we gather

our years

like logs

in the autumn

they already burn

in the fire

of immortal

love

*Wilhelm Bruners, »Niemandland. Gott«, 2015*

**Erik Riechers SAC**

*April 20, 2016, Vallendar*

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