

01-30-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“This lection shows that the fulfillment of Scripture is challenging and frightening to those who are incapable of including and identifying with marginalized outsiders. Yet, the fulfillment of Scripture is also liberating and healing to those who are able to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus and model his example of engaging the ‘other’ and moving beyond prescribed roles and expectations.”

- Gay L. Byron



Luke 4:21-30

Questions for Reflection —

- In what areas of your life and in what ways do you feel confined by prescribed roles and expectations of others? How might that change if you fix your eyes on Jesus? What are the conventions and stereotypes that might be limiting your response to the nudgings of the Holy Spirit? What do you need in order to be able to move beyond those boundaries? What is your capacity to not just listen for but to actually hear and follow God’s call to new and surprising things?

- What is the status quo in your life that is challenged by the teachings of Jesus? What teachings of Jesus are most difficult for you or make you feel uncomfortable as you consider following them in your life? What is it about those teachings that challenges you? What would it look like for you to have a change of heart when it comes to such teachings? What will it take for you to live into this change of heart?

- When and how in your life have you engaged with someone you have considered “other” in some way? What was that experience like? What did you learn and how did you grow? What do you think it means for God’s kin-dom to be inclusive of all? What is your role and the role of our congregation in helping to make that kin-dom a reality beyond the walls of the church in a hurting world? What does it mean for us to love those whom we consider “other” or “outsider” as God would have us love them?

Daily Household Prayer

Holy God, you create us by your power; redeem us by your love; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit. As we give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you, we may reflect your nature here on earth. Eternal God, you are always present; forgive us for not reflecting your faithfulness. Jesus, you are always self-giving; forgive us for living for ourselves. Holy Spirit, you always lead us on; forgive us for holding back. Renew us and give us the capacity to love as you would have us love. In the name of Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.