

Bible Study for Sunday, Sunday March 17, 2019

Our text for this Sunday is:

- Mark 5:21-43

We will be spending the Sundays in Lent this year in a preaching/study/worship series called "Everyday Jesus Spirituality." This is a study based off the Reverend Barbara Brown Taylor's book called "An Altar in the World." It is a series that is meant for us to connect our everyday faith with our everyday lives.

Week Two (Mar 17) is called "The Faith Practice of Being Grounded"

Opening Question:

What might "being grounded" mean to you?

Read Mark 5:21-43

Before you read it, pay attention to what is happening in this scene and how Jesus responds.

What did you notice? Did anything challenge you?

Why do you think Jesus was able to be calm in the midst of actual storms and the 'storms of people' that so often surrounded Him?

Where do you find God? Where is God in the midst of a world in crisis?

How do you handle your real fears of things happening in the world?

Do you find yourself "present" when chaos happens? Or do you "escape" in some way?

BBT writes: "Most of us walk without really thinking about what we are doing. We walk while talking on the phone, dragging a child, or attempting to text while holding onto a latte."

- Can you remember a time when you felt fully present and aware while walking?
- Have you ever used walking as a spiritual/faith practice? Maybe while walking a labyrinth? What was that like?
- What are the spiritual benefits of multitasking for you? What are the spiritual costs?

BBT writes: "Most of us spend so much time thinking about where we have been or where we are supposed to be going that we have a hard time recognizing where we actually are."

- What emotions does this statement stir up in you?
- Do you think it is possible to change—either personally or culturally—in this regard?

St Augustine reminds us: "It is solved by walking." Have you ever had an "it" that was *better-clearer-more approachable* after walking? Why do think that was?

To relocate God is to reground our lives. What do you think of that statement?

- When you think of God, where do you assume God to be?
- Where did that idea come from?
- How might “relocating God” reground your life?

Mark 5:21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.