

Sermon 2/7/21
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Today's readings tempt us to look at life from a broader viewpoint.

Our personal lives are part of an incredible story, We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly". Martin Luther King Jr.,

Marcus Garvey

"The ends you serve that are selfish will take you no further than yourself but the ends you serve that are for all, in common, will take you into eternity." "If you haven't confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life.

Our viewpoints matter the universe and God's story, adding our decisions which will increase beauty or ugliness to our communities, society, and implicitly to the whole.

Psalm 147 engages social justice, the sustaining of the people, and the broken-hearted healing with God's brilliance.

Isaiah 40 in the book of Isaiah, God is a source of confidence and hope. We are told that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The God of the universe directs the galaxies and also inspires our own lives. God gives humankind strength, energy, and wisdom. In today's parlance, we are connected to the energy of the big bang; God's lively energy flows in and through us, providing us with all the resources we need to flourish in our time and place faithfully.

Paul's words in I Corinthians 9 also entice us to a larger perspective. The gospel of salvation and wholeness connects every theological and ideological position. The grandeur of God's good news inspires flexibility in our presentation of the gospel and our relationships with others. Proclaiming the gospel is not optional says Paul. The Gospel Message is chock-full of the good news of love, not just any love but the love of the everlasting God. This is the one who created the earth and heaven. Who provides sustenance, strength, compassion, and healing for all creatures. We are talking about the Gospel Message of a God who takes delight in those who place their hope in the tenacious and tender power of divine love. Paul says it not optional. How about you? Collaborators, is it optional for you?

What matters is not our inward-looking viewpoint but God's vision of healing and wholeness, which embraces all the diversities of life.

Mark 1:29-39 describes a "day in the life" of Jesus. Jesus teaches, heals, and exorcises the demonic. Jesus is going from dusk to dawn. No healing is too large or too small for his attention. The story concludes with Jesus going to a deserted place for prayer. His time of prayer connects him with God and gives him a clear sense of mission.

However, there is more to the story. Mark mentioned the whole town gathered at the door. And Jesus healed many who had various diseases. Some will call this statement hyperbole. Today, I want to challenge this notion.

Then Scripture mentioned serving. Jesus lifted her. She then served Jesus as the angels served Jesus in the wilderness. Watch this Jesus is doing and setting people free. Remember, be careful how we entertain strangers because we may be entertaining angels unaware. Today's readings tempt us to look at life from a broader viewpoint.