



Week of March 7, 2021

Build a Bridge: Where Healing Begins

Psalm 32:1-5

Day One: Read Matthew 5:23-24

²³ "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."

- Jesus seems very concerned with broken relationships being reconciled, and completely unconcerned with assigning blame or figuring out who is at fault. As a follower of Jesus, is that true for you as well? How about when it comes to racial reconciliation? Why or why not?

Day Two: Read Psalm 51:1-4

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

- David is confessing his sins of raping Bathsheba and murdering her husband, and yet David confesses that it is only against God that he has sinned. From this we learn that anything that is out of alignment with God is sin. What does that mean for you when it comes to racial reconciliation?

Day Three: Read Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

- As we continue our journey toward racial reconciliation, read these verses from Psalm 139 slowly, meditatively. And then sit quietly with them. Listen for what the Spirit says in the quiet.

Day Four: Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

- Whether or not we see racism and injustice around us, the cries of our sisters and brothers of color have reached us all. What would it mean to suffer with them, as Paul suggests? And if we're not suffering with them, what does that mean about our understanding of the Body of Christ and the body of humanity?

Day Five: Read Luke 10:30-32

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹ By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side."

- It may be hard for us to imagine how the priest and the Levite could walk around the bleeding man, and yet that's what the Church has done for centuries when it comes to the treatment of people of color. As a member of the Church and the Body of Christ, what needs to change in you? In us? What commitments are you willing to make to live more faithfully?