

## Re-Solution

### John 9: 1-41

If I had known how much we would be practicing this re-solutioning, I probably would have chosen a different Lenten theme for us this year. Like many of you, I am struggling to find my footing in this new reality. What worked in the past no longer does. Suddenly all these new ideas, all these new plans, all these these new ways of doing things are being thrown at me and to be honest, I am overwhelmed.

I have joked with several people this past week that I thought I had a handle on modern technology only to discover how little I really know. I am relying on my seven year and my nine year old to help me continue to figure things out. It is amazing to me that with just a few clicks, they can get it all up and running. Of course, after they help me out, they insist on rolling their eyes at me, just another reminder to me of how out of touch I am with the current times, a sign which gets passed on from one generation to the next.

But I will admit that even though as overwhelmed as I am, I am excited....excited to try new things, excited to find new ways to be the church, excited by all the technology which can bring us together. All these new re-solutions are forcing me out of my comfort zone. They are helping me to question

what I know to be True. They are breaking down my false assumptions, my false dichotomies, my false certainties of what I hold up as the Norm.

One of the hardest lessons which I have had to learn in life is that more often than not, we spend so much energy trying to create these illusions of perfection, these illusions of having it all together, these illusions of everything being right with our world only to have life knock us off our feet when we are least expecting it. More often than not, life throws us off balance through some unimaginable loss like a death of a loved one or loss of a job, or really anything which rocks our very foundation and brings us to our knees. In these moments, what I have learned is that it is okay to let the pieces fall. It is okay to let them break around our feet. It is okay drop all the pretenses of perfection because then and only then, can we mourn what is broken and discover what remains as Truth, things like grace and love, things like community and authentic relationships, things like seeing each other as created in the image of God and being loved more than we could ever imagine.

This allowing of the pieces to fall, this breaking down of false assumptions and certainties is exactly what happens in our text today. A man is healed and the community discovers what is real, what is authentic, what are the Truths which we continue to hold onto after the fall because, through it all, they bring healing and wholeness, not only for ourselves but for all of God's people as well.

What I love about this text is that Jesus is the one who initiates this healing. The man does not ask Jesus to heal him. Nor does anyone bring this man to Jesus to be healed. Jesus sees this man, this man who everyone else ignores, this man who has become part of the background, this man who is part of a broken and oppressive system which everyone assumes is the norm. Jesus sees this man and realizes that this healing is an opportunity for the works of God to be revealed.

Then Jesus leaves. The rest of the story is about the man who is now healed and how the community embraces him, or should I say, does not embrace him. People do not recognize him. They wonder if this is the same man who begged at the gates. They do not and cannot see him as anything else but a blind man. As one commentator put it, "People are disturbed that the man is no longer blind...all because Jesus changed the status quo. There is no joy. There is no praise in this moment, only quarreling. Jesus confronts them with the norms which have been used to prop up a broken and oppressive system and no one is happy about it.

This text points out the crowds' and yes even points out our false assumptions, our false certainties, our false dichotomies which rule our world, because the author of John wants us to realize that all these things prevent in us an openness to God at work in the world.

Like other stories in the larger Gospel narrative, this story begins with a question. It asks us how did this new life come about, how can we find a way

through the grief, the chaos, the frustration to a path of strength and courage, how can we be the light for others so that healing and wholeness comes for all... except we miss all these possibilities for re-solutions because we are too focused on the why...why did it happen? why can't we keep things the way they are? why do we need to change our patterns of behavior?

The author of John wants us to know that these are the wrong questions for us to be asking. As people of faith, we know that God has never played by our rules, has never consulted us on whether or not healing and wholeness should be available for all. Rather God has since the beginning of time has surprised us in new life giving ways, telling us not to put new wine into old wineskins, showing up when we least expect it, and reminding us to never take the grace of the Kingdom of God for granted again.

You see, the thing the Gospel message teaches us time and time again is that Jesus rewrites, Jesus rewires our assumptions about how things are to be. Jesus invites us to reimagine, to rethink, to resolve to think about our relationships differently, to think about how to be the Body of Christ differently. As people of faith, Jesus calls us, Jesus challenges us to think about how we can make a way when the world says there is no way so that healing and wholeness can come for all of God's people.

I shared early this week that I don't pretend to have all the answers during this time of uncertainty. But one thing that I know to be True is this...as disciples of Christ, we serve a God who overcame the grave and brought forth new life for all of God's people. We worship a God that when the world said death and darkness had won, showed us that love will always change the ending. We are named and claimed by a God who will always make a way out of no way, telling us that fear and worry will never be the last word.

So as we continue our Lenten walk, I hope you hold on to this unshakable Truth because in the midst of all this uncertainty, I am seeing God moving in and among us, calling us to reject the world's narrative of power and greed. I see God inviting us to reform our identity, to never lose our connection to the presence of God. In all this uncertainty, I am seeing God moving in and among us, redeeming us, bringing us back to life. I am seeing God making a way out of no way by calling us to be open to opportunities for the works of God to be revealed. I see God inviting us to re-solution our way of being, our relationships, to re-solution how we live in community with one another so that healing and wholeness may come for all of God's people.

And for me that is indeed the very heart of the Gospel message. Thanks be to God. Amen.