

Sermon Outline - Sun, Aug 22, 2021- Watershed Restoration

Overview: We have been leaning into an exploration of watersheds as a way to learn from nature and understand what God is calling us to in this time. Last week we talked about how so many watersheds are in danger because of toxic pollution, stifled flow and algae blooms.

Exegesis

- Reminder – We are studying watershed discipleship which has 3 connected core ideas (humans are at a watershed moment, our actual watersheds are in trouble because of our ecological crisis; watersheds connect)
- Many of our watersheds are in critical condition but good news is they can be healed
- When people recognize that there is a problem and take action things can turn around
- I remember growing up with the Charles River being toxic, the same was the case for many people who grew up in New York City along the Hudson River.
- Over many years both of those watersheds have improved greatly because people got invested in their restoration

Key Points –

1. Cut off the source of pollution – industrial, agricultural, or fecal
Industrial= toxic work or company; agricultural = bad food/health; fecal = other people's crap
2. Let the river flow - not just the main but the side streams (ex. Hudson River & estuaries)
3. Support the growth of riparian species (plants that are used to wetter conditions – certain trees, marsh grasses, etc)
 - They help with filtration – sources of wise council
 - They provide shade and lower the temperature which reduces algae and supports fish – sources of resilience
 - They support wildlife – introduction of diversity

Questions –

1. What are the toxic sources in your life and community? How can you work to cut off those sources so that personal and collective watersheds can begin the healing process?
2. How can you unblock the Spirit allowing more natural flow in your life? What new things are not moving because your estuaries are gated?
3. What are riparian species that you need to cultivate? What are the people or practices you need to invite into your life as a source of wise council, resilience or more diversity in your life?
4. Beyond the spiritual metaphors is there something you feel God is calling you to in your physical watershed?