

Sermon Outline - Sun, Oct 9, 2022 – We Are Called to Jubilee - God's Kin(g)dom Way
Scriptures- Acts 2:14-21

Overview -

This month as we celebrate 4 years as a congregation and move towards what God is calling us to in the coming year – we are looking at the biblical principle of Jubilee and asking how we are called to make it tangible in our lives and the ethos of this church.

Telling the Story of Jubilee

- Before we look at the joyous justice of Jubilee or even the sacred system of Sabbath, you have to understand how God organizes the people into a system of belonging.
- There are 12 tribes within Israel that are of different sizes.
- Traditionally we understand that the tribes are based on familial ties (though there is some debate tied to debates on who actually lives in the Promised Land.)
- People are in smaller units of belonging and resources are distributed based on need.
- We see this also in Acts and in Jesus time – first work is to pull together a posse.
- The Greek work Religare – To bind together. Connection is the core!

The Core Basis of Belonging

- (1) We Belong to God – God is constantly making it clear that we are Their People – Exodus 20:2-3 [² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before^[a] me.]
- (2) We Belong with Each Other – God places us within Tribes – smaller units of belonging where we are expected to contribute to collective work and where folks are supposed to have each others back and have a sense of collective responsibility. The Family unit remains but the Church is also a unit that builds on this.
- (3) We Extend Belonging For Others – When anything falls apart, our faith calls us to make the tent wider, to invite folks in, to share and to love so no one is left alone

Key Caveats

- Groups are here to give us a manageable unit of engagement, not a unit of exclusion!!!!
- **Jesus’ core message of kin(g)dom is a reminder that the love and belonging must be at the center of the practice.**
- **New Roots cannot be or do anything transformative if belonging is not central!!!!!!**

Broader Reflection Questions

- Do you feel a deep sense of belonging to God? If yes, what creates that sense of belonging? If not, what do you need to help cultivate that more?
- What tribes are you a part of? Where is your belonging strong – where is it weak? Where do you feel called to cultivate deeper connection?
- How open is your heart to the creation around us and the people you interact with who are not in your tribe? How might God be calling you to walk in a place of deeper connection with those around you?