

Sermon Outline - Sun, March 20, 2022 – Divine Disruption
Isaiah 58; Matthew 3:1-4

Keyword Summary – Fasting; Jubilee; Consumption; Disruption; Sabbath

Overview –

As we are in the heart of the Lenten Season we are looking at the purpose of fasting working from the title Need Less, Give More. We have been focusing on Isaiah 58 and its instructions on how God wants us to fast. Last week we talked about

Exegesis –

- I was on vacation, had a great time and on the last day slipped on the boat and broke my ankle
- As my swollen foot got bigger than I could imagine – I wondered - Why is this happening?
- I struggled to walk, to go to the bathroom and do almost anything for myself which was a challenge to my identity as being “high functioning” and the one who helps others
- After a few sleepless nights where I couldn’t get comfortable on Thursday night I had a vision of Sarge, the man whose house we are considering buying for Jubilee House and thought about how he navigated such a big house by himself with mobility challenges.
- I struggled with the tireless help of my husband and thought – How are people doing this alone?
- Realizing that my previous Lenten plans were shot, I started to ask what God was doing through this experience. Is there any way that this disruption in my life could be a God moment

Key Points

In the last week I have leaned into these lessons that I understand in a

- 1 **Disruption** can allow you to see what is truly essential and what is fluff.
- 2 **Disruption** can lay bare narratives of “self-sufficiency” and invite us into interdependence.
- 3 **Disruption** can invite us into deeper empathy for the experience of others

I said CAN because what we learn from disruption often depends on your perspective and response.

- We can respond with unnecessary deprivation or hoarding when the moment passes (ex. TP)
- We can respond with isolation or overcompensation.
- We can respond with bitterness and shame

As this experience has unfolded I have also been in the midst of a public conversation about a place where we are having to make choices about what we are willing to let go of to make space for everyone. As we have navigated this conversation I can’t help but think that the mobility challenges I am experiencing are making me more attune to how we need to be committed to access for all people. I would never have chosen this but I see God moving in this disruption.

Questions

1. Looking back at your life where have you experienced divine disruption? What did you gain from that disruption? What did you learn about what you truly need – and don’t need? Were you able to see it in the moment or only afterwards?
2. As we continue in the Lenten season, how can you continue to embrace disruption either that has been provided to you or that you choose - as an invitation into a deeper understanding of what you truly need and let go of what is fluff?
3. How can disruption be an invitation into deeper empathy and interdependence. What concrete commitments can you make to ask for help or give help in a way that builds deeper connection?