

Sermon Outline - Sun, Oct 3, 2021- Whose are You?

Overview: It is the first Sunday and we usually start a new conversation but we are going to continue leaning in on the conversation about calling. We have been working with the equation and I am going to change the order of that equation - Calling = God's Plan + Our Community/ies of Engagement + Our Gifts & Experiences. As we celebrate the third anniversary of this Community we reflect on the topic – Whose are You?

Exegesis

- The book is built around Nehemiah but it is really the story of the Israelites
- Nehemiah was doing well personally but he could not feel whole while his tribe suffered
- This passage is a moment of crisis not just of resources but really of belonging.
- Jubilee is a system for codifying belonging – God set it up so everyone had what they needed and the land would get rest, the poor would be fed, and that if folks messed up they would get second chances. Jubilee is a system that makes sure that can come back to right relationship with God, with each other and with the land.

Key Points

- We belong to God!!!! – The sense of connection with our creator reminds us that we are beautifully and wonderfully made and connects us to the bigger plan beyond time and space. When we don't have that we can feel small, insignificant .
- We need to be part of a tribe! – Individualism is a lie that is not historically true nor emotionally healthy. We are hard wired for connection. (As we discussed last week, none of us has it all. God calls us into relationship w/ others who complete us)
- We belong to a place! – Our disconnection from the land robs us the chance to build real Jubilee. Jubilee is about a relationship between God and the people and the place and if we don't have all three in balance we struggle

CAUTION – There are many ways that tribalism can go wrong - dangers in getting so caught up about who is in the tribe that we make folks conform in hurtful ways or we keep people out or we shut off our ability to learn from folks in other tribes. We will go deeper next week.

Throughout our nation and world we are living in a moment of dis-ease. The earth is raging, our bodies are screaming, our children are crying for a new way of being. We will only find the way together. We must ask not just Who Are We? But WHOSE Are We? To Whom Do We Belong?

Questions

1. Do you feel like you belong to God and God belongs to you? How does your sense of belonging with and to God shape the way you see the world?
2. What communities do you feel like you belong to? How are those spaces creating healthy or unhealthy cycles of giving and receiving?
3. What are your habits of connection that help you to have healthy community relationships or keep you from really leaning in to community