

February 10, 2018

2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 8:27-9:13

“Who Do You Say that I Am?” (SERMON NOTES)

Kerra Becker English

*Introduce & Read the Lectionary portion of the text* (Mark 9:2-9)

This part is a vision that gets reported as a shared reality. (Peter, James, John & Jesus)

Strange things happen – historical figures come back to life, Jesus is transformed, they hear God’s voice

What is the context for this to happen?

Visions that change us have to answer something for us. Or else it’s just a trip (to use the 60’s hippie language)

It helps to read the longer story – Mark tells us a little more about what we are supposed to understand, even if the disciples seem clueless.

*Read the longer narrative* (Mark 8:27-9:13)

Who do *people* say that I am?

John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets

Who do YOU say that I am?

The Messiah

Who does God say that Jesus is?

My Son, The Beloved

What does Jesus have to say about himself?

Is he clear on that? Is he answering questions with questions?

How is he like Elijah? Like Moses?

How is he – himself? Unique?

Who do YOU say that Jesus is?

From history – who is he like?

From tradition – what does the church teach?

From other sources – who do people say that he is that you don't believe? Or do believe but it doesn't fit with what you've been taught?

From your own spirit – what does faith cause you to believe?

This week, Lent will begin. This is one of the questions I was thinking would be a good one to explore during Lent, as a Lenten practice. Who is Jesus?

Devotional booklets, sermon themes, your own study of Jesus to ask

Birthright writing – Parker Palmer – [A Hidden Wholeness](#), p. 32

*When “true self” is the topic children are the best source, because they live so close to their birthright gifts.... When my first grandchild was born, I saw something in her that I had missed in my own children some twenty-five years earlier, when I was too young and self-absorbed to see anyone, including myself, very well. What I saw was clear and simple: my granddaughter arrived on earth as this kind of person, rather than that, or that, or that... In my granddaughter I actually observed something I could once take only on faith: that we are born with a seed of selfhood that contains the spiritual DNA of our uniqueness54ik2\others.”*

We can help each other discover those gifts. We can ask who is Jesus? But we can also probe how we see the spark of Christ, the divine nature in each and every

person. Pointing out those treasures is a way we can affirm the holiness of all human beings. And telling someone what you see and admire and know about them is a blessing – whether it’s a child, a grandchild, a friend, a mentor, or whoever is important in your life. How are they – like Jesus, or like your beloved Grandfather, or how do they express the kinds of values and strengths that you admire most? Tell them. You won’t be disappointed in the reaction – I can almost guarantee it.