

Day 2

"Just A Glimpse"

Inspirations of Brene Brown, thingsilearnt
(wordpress.com), Dr. Mulkar

Exodus 32:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9;

Matthew 22:1-14

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Theme:

Within our shared worshipful times together at Tippe over many years, we have often spoken about the power of the stories we tell ourselves to be either life giving or life stopping.

Tell the story (of your day, a part of your life) to yourself in a different way, with a different intent or focus, you change how it shapes the meanings you make. Different narrative, different meaning.

Our lives have many stories running through them concurrently: daily lives and long-term intentions, our projects and goals, relationships with different people.

And each story has a process or a storyline: a beginning, a middle, and an end. So, three acts: a Day One, Day Two, Day Three.

Day 1 is the start...the "what?" and a deep realization, with deep emotions or lack of, a reckoning, of sorts, with the way things really are.

Day 2 is the struggle...how to respond/move forward. It asks of us our vulnerability to honestly acknowledge

what is happening, curious about new questions and learnings. Wrestling with and ruminating on ideas and strategies, recognizing misunderstandings, faulty assumptions, projections...and owning them as a way of freeing yourself to new insights. We call this courage!

Day 3 is the resolution...the new way, a new and maybe unexpected ending that makes much meaning...brings meaning to life. It creates a little revolution in your life...as you rally, recover, and reach out.

And, Day 2 is always the hardest.

The "what to do now" is hard and often leaves you feeling exposed, perhaps overwhelmed...and often tired!

It's also 'the point of no return' - a term borrowed from aviation. You're too far to turn back, but not yet far enough...to see the light, a new ending to your story, and your struggle.

Day 2 is a scary place at times. You just don't know what will come next but you do know...it is coming (you can't turn back...the clock) and you have a say in what will come next. The way you tell yourself this story matters!

Thing is: **You can't skip day 2!**

Day 2 is the non-negotiable part of the process - when things are raw, and real, emotions are high. This is when the struggle seems too real and too large. Life is a rumble. Sound familiar? The gut-wrenching, never-ending feeling of everything going wrong is Day 2.

But the only way to Day 3 is through Day 2. Because...
you cannot resolve the challenge till you
deeply FEEL the need to resolve it –
REALLY FEEL THE NEED for it to be different
in your bones, unleashing your true potential.

(Like angst of running up against a deadline you've avoided through procrastination
can prompt your best work ...pushing you to stretch. Or, how often someone struggling
in addiction must hit the bottom before they come back up.
Like when you're backed up against a wall.)

It takes courage to stay in Day 2.
Courage to be vulnerable in exploring the situation and options.
You have to choose courage over comfort (which may be cozy at first but sits you on the
couch as an on-looker in your own life story as if powerless)

And, no amount of awareness or experience
can give you a free pass from the daunting level of doubt
which is part of the process of Day 2.

But what awareness and experience **will** give you is:

“A little grace. A grace that whispers:

“This is part of the process. Stay the course. You've done this before. I am with you.
Together, we've got this!”

It's messy...and it's normal. It's okay. It's where the magic happens. Mystery unfolds.
Holiness thrives within. So: stay the course.

In this Covid/protest/politic season, most of us have been in Day 1 a while now...and
are being pushed, no return now, into Day 2.

The way you navigate Day 2 will define the possible new outcome and peace of your
story: Day 3.

The way you tell yourself your story, matters.

Prompting:

Well then, if it wasn't all about Moses,
I suppose it's not all about us either.

It's not about me, you.

It's not about this/that family.
It's not about this church.
I guess it's not about how well our leaders are doing,
or not...
how well we are doing, or not.....

But then, what is it all about? Wow...what a Day 1 emotional quandary!

Moses dies.
Moses dies...he just gets a glimpse of the Promised Land, having spent a life time trying
to get there...
he dies?

Was just a glimpse enough for him?
Knowing all the others would cross over, would go, and he wouldn't??

Would it be enough for me?

I wonder what he saw when he looked out over the Promised Land...how he felt?

What would I feel...what do I feel...when I've worked hard and catch a glimpse of the
"Promised Land"...the hoped for results that feels like affirmation/reward?
And everyone will get to enjoy my work.
And perhaps take the credit for the hard work?
How does that feel?

If like Moses, it's not about reaping what I sow,
enjoying the fruits of my own labor, then what?

Every time I go to this space prompted by this story, a life experience comes to
mind...one I know I have shared before.

When Nick was a baby, he had to be hospitalized with an unusual illness.
And our pastor came to visit him/me there.

Terry is a fine pastor, great thinker, amazing theologian...worked alongside MLK in the
60's.

And he came to visit...me, but it was he who was most troubled.
I was on session at the time and...

*I remember he moved the subject from Nick/me to the fact that the Adult Day Care
Center Woods' had established and housed

had become so large and successful (remember, this was back before there were adult
daycare centers in the early 80's)...so successful they were needing more space and

would be moving out and incorporating on their own.

****He was upset.**

He didn't want them to go, this was his/our church's baby and he wanted it under his wing...within his/our credit.

I do indeed understand *that feeling.*

I do know something about working hard and wanting to enjoy the benefits and get some credit too? Project Home spawning Heritage Home Delivers.

You know that feeling, right?

*****When we do "good",**

most of us do want some recognition and the chance to bask in the light of our own success...even if our focus is worthy, serves others...and we love them!

******I remember saying to Terry,**

"Terry, the surest sign of the value and success of this program is they don't need us anymore."

The promise has been fulfilled.

The Buddhists would say it this way:

"You will know when you are truly successful...you will no longer be needed." No co-dependency.

Woods PC and Project Home, amongst the people Moses led, ...they had made it to the Promised Land!

Die to it! Let go of ego around it and perhaps see it as a beginning, not an ending.

At the top of his game, Moses had to...die to the notion that the promise was a piece of land, an accomplishment, rather an inner peace that comes through understanding and experience...God alongside.

And those Israelites, what about them and the Promised Land?

In this week's earlier worship, we were mindful that it took them 40 years to go 6 miles, so the

Promised Land was more about their state of mind and readiness than it was a place or destination.

Perhaps they always had all they needed to move into the Promised Land but weren't ready till they were.

Until they were able to pass on to the generations their spiritual wisdom...

Until they had learned enough along the way, were ready,
no longer co-dependent...and yes, Moses helped!
Maybe it took the first generation passing to be ready,
to be able to let go of the past and be in the moment.

Perhaps his time of leadership was complete,
his particular set of skills to lead were no longer what was now needed...
and maybe he was really so at peace with that!

Now, it is their work to do...

To deeply care for the gospel, to become one in deeper ways...as Paul would later say.

They reckoned and moved to rumble with new possibilities realizing they
have to go it on their own.

**We all do...at the right time, we all have to walk
the talk ourselves, not just expect others
and leaders to do it! Day 2.**

Remember that when...

- ~your teenagers grow and don't seem to need you,
- ~your parents make choices without your input,
- ~we want someone else at Tippe to move ministry forward.
- ~you are complaining about a leader while sitting on your couch.

Moses? ...the point was never Moses.

The point: God!

...the Universal power that is life-giving and on the side of peace and justice...God's
deepest desires for each of God's people to be self-actualized, a new human being.

Moses wasn't the point.

The Promised Land wasn't the point.

God's peace and justice is the point.

Take that in...given today's situations.

God...life-giving power-source of the universe,
impacting possibility, powerfully...

**co-creating possibility with you...with you always, through all your journeys...your
integrity...
that's the point!**

You know, Moses did make it to the Promised Land...
one far better than even he had imagined,
or even glimpsed! An outstanding, long-standing Day 3!

Don't feel sorry for Moses...or for yourself when you do all you can for the common good...

and the prospering of your hands does not...
the fruits of your labors, the Promised Land does not...
take place presto! in a timing that you get to enjoy...
or even within

your lifetime,
your job, your time at church,
your current family configuration.

You see, the Promised Land is not
a destination
but
an internal reality that you build up...
that you help others build up over time!
God with you
no matter the journey, the timing!
The journey itself may be the promise fulfilled within.

~It's worth it all...that's Moses' message to us!~

What matters most

**is your willingness to move into the promise-Day 3,
making it possible for God to do the thing God is so wanting to do next, in
this very moment...**

something new in you and me. ***That's what matters!***

Cause after all, as you look around this world, a new glimpse of the Promised Land is
needed now more than ever!

The promise is in you! And, even a glimpse is enough!
You know this is true!

We are not to remember former things or times of old...but to make it possible for God
to do a new thing...

and save each of us...one person at a time...
all of us...**now!**

Save us from ourselves, our whining and complaining, and inflated expectations or
complacency...right?

Paul invites us to ask not only how we have helped this community prosper in the past,

but to look at how the community and its needs
may be changing,

and so how our response to being church needs to change again if we are to be the
Good News of the gospel...
be relevant...now....offer promise now!

And, to do it as a strong and tender mother...nursing her children.

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What do *you need* to “let die” to find the newness of the promise...is it  
your mealtime pattern, Saturday routine, the way you grumble, how you sneak  
around avoiding things or people, your stone cold quiet, or invasive “caring,”  
your source of daily news, a long held opinion?

What’s keeping you wandering in the desert, prevents you from the peace of the  
Promised Land?  
Holding you in Day 1 or 2?

Is it your old notions of state, country, world? Politics, protests, racism, sexism,  
classism, ageism?

Is it our old notions of meeting and belonging, budgets, and prejudices keeping us from  
the promise?

Will you die to the past as you catch a glimpse of that Promised Land?

Will you cross over...or maybe that’s will you lie down and die if that is the “right”  
timing and so let others pass over?

Is the way you’ve always done things more important to you than the well-being of  
others, than your own well-being...

more important than God—God’s possibility?

**It is hard** to let go of something that once met your needs ...there’s real grief.

It’s hard to make loving kindness a reality realizing you may not get to enjoy the fruits  
of your own labor,

as you work faithfully in your family  
or in your church or society.

**But isn’t it all worth it to you? Yes, it is!**

When you only get a glimpse, at first it may not seem like a glimpse is enough...but  
then...you remember.

Relax!  
It's not all about you!  
It wasn't about Moses either...  
    you're in very good company!

Yet Moses is important...and so are you!  
In fact, YOU ARE EVERYTHING!

~**Is it You** who will remind us it is all worth it...  
caring for others is worth it...  
even if we do not see and personally enjoy care's completion.

Even if in caring about others and our creation,  
not everyone will be able to stay on board this Tippe-canoe as we die to the old and  
cross over to the Promised Land?

~**Is it you** who will remind us that it's more important to try and need a do-over than  
to do nothing at all!

~**Is it you** who models the maturity of faith that helps us let go of/die to our own  
needs to support the greater good...

**and be satisfied to be part of the process  
of moving toward a new Promised Land?**

**ISN'T IT YOU? ☺ Give yourself a HUG!**

**I say...A glimpse is enough!**

~What is the story you are right now telling yourself about your situation...emotions  
and all? Self-Talk counts!

~What in that story are you willing to own as your projections or judgements?

~Will you move your story from Day 1...reckoning with your feelings and engaging your  
curiosity about what can come?

~Will you move your story to Day 2? And stay there with courage and vulnerability to  
give peace and Day 3 a chance?

God knows how hard it is to be human being  
and invites us...**not to be right but to get it right!**

Are you willing to look at things differently?  
When you change the way you look at things,  
the things you look at...change!  
Just like that: 1, 2, 3.