

What's a Body to Do?
Luke 10:25-37
January 12, 2020
Worship in Action: Communal Bible Study
Rev. Dr. Marcia Bailey, facilitator

As we begin the new year together and in preparation for our congregational retreat, Feb 7 and 8, we will be focusing our attention on a very familiar parable of Jesus, the story we have come to know as “The Good Samaritan.” You may think you already know all you need to know about this story but rather than *listening* to it, we are going to try to find various points of *entry into* it, thereby *hearing* what it might be saying to us in *this* very specific time and place. So, over the next few weeks the worship leaders and I are going to try to direct your focus and reflection on specific aspects of this same text; I pray that God’s Spirit will move in and among us as we learn and discern together.

Every day we make choices: what to eat, wear, do; how to treat ourselves, how to act and react to others we encounter—those we know and love and those who are strangers to us. Each choice we make is in some way connected to our faith: if we believe that we are called to *live* the Gospel, to *embody* our faith, much like Jesus embodied his faith, then all these decisions matter: what I put in and on my body reflects my understanding of it as a gift from God. How I treat my family and strangers should mirror my beliefs about the value of living in right relationship. Thinking about these choices, and the choices made by those in this parable, is a good starting point as we try to enter into this story. While dramatic, this story isn’t that far outside of many of our present experiences. And so, with the help of each other and our imaginations, we will begin here.

You are sitting in three groups, whether you realize or not! Each section will be given an assignment to pretend you are either the Priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan in the story. You have the scripture printed in your bulletin. On the sheet I will give to your group are some questions for you to consider as well as some information which might inform your response. I will give you all equal time to reflect and talk together, and then will ask your group to report out to us from your unique perspective. I am asking you to take notes on your conversation on the clipboard I'll give your group; your responses as the Priest, Levite or Samaritan, are going to be my starting place for the sermon next week.

Enter into the story, seeking to hear and see and consider something you have not experienced before. May the Spirit move among us as we learn together.

Thanks for using your imagination! Let's have the priest/Levite/ Samaritan tell us why they chose to do what they did...read it first person....

There is, of course, the option to be *one more person* in the story: the person in the ditch on the side of the road. We will consider that position in our Adult Learning Community this morning as we continue to listen to the text.

We make choices daily. As we strive to be a vital, relevant community for love and justice in our neighborhood, our choices matter and how we are perceived matters. The question is: do our choices reflect an embodiment of our faith? In other words, can people *see Jesus in us*, as individuals and as a community of faith? May God's Spirit continue to speak to us as we enter this text so that in finding ourselves, we might be inspired to live authentically in the world.

