

## Midweek Reflection # 7 ~ “Embracing Brokenness”

“The wilderness constantly reminds me that wholeness is not about perfection.... I have been astonished to see how nature uses devastation to stimulate new growth, slowly but persistently healing her own wounds. Wholeness does not mean perfection: it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life. Knowing this gives me hope that human wholeness ---mine, yours, ours----need not be a utopian dream, if we can use devastation as a seedbed for new life.”

~ Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wilderness*

When I read this quote on the Church of the Savior blog I immediately thought of the way this truth is played out in the Gospels. It really is the people who recognize their brokenness, their incompleteness, who are most open to Christ’s presence and transformation in their lives. These are the ones who are open to Christ’s offer of renewal and wholeness. spiritual, emotional, and frequently physical. These are the ones whose brokenness leads to new life!

A quick read through the first nine chapters of the Gospel of Mark confirms this. Starting with Simon’s mother-in-law and her fever, Jesus encounters a variety of people who are incomplete, broken in body, mind and/or spirit. He even meets the needs of five thousand hungry folks with the miracle of the loaves and fishes and responds to the fears of his disciples in the storm on the Sea of Galilee by calming the storm. In each case, the incompleteness or brokenness of life is embraced and becomes a seed bed for new life.

Let me encourage you to try a scriptural/prayer exercise suggested by this Parker Palmer quote. Read those first nine chapters of Mark’s Gospel in one sitting, pausing only when you sense a personal connection with the text for prayer. As you finish the reading, offer God your own incompleteness or brokenness, in whatever way you can express it. Then sit quietly in the presence of our God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, for five minutes or so enjoying the loving care of Jesus that is expressed in the Gospel. Picture yourself as any one of those needy characters that Jesus meets along the way. For me, the image of those frightened disciples in the storm was a powerful way to identify my own incompleteness and to listen to His voice proclaiming “Peace, Be Still” as I waited in hope on His word.

Have a great week experiencing God’s love and healing power.

Howie