



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 19, 2023

“To Live a Good Life: What is the most important thing to do?”

Conclusion of the Folktale “To Live a Good Life”

In the folktale Elijah gives us this wisdom: If the most important time is “NOW” and the most important person is “THE PERSON STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU,” then it naturally follows that the most important thing to do is “CARE.”

A Dentist’s Story

Rev. Lillian Daniel, a Michigan minister for the United Church of Christ, shares a story of from Jim Cope, a full-time dentist and part-time licensed minister, about how being a dentist involves more than teeth:

“Over the years, the one aspect of general dentistry that I have enjoyed is caring for families. I have spent many appointments drying the tears of someone who has just lost a spouse, child, or loved one, giving comfort to someone facing surgery or diagnosed with a terminal illness, listening to someone in the midst of divorce, and laughing with someone over the joys of parenthood. I cherish these parts of my day immensely, maybe even more so than the actual fixing of teeth. ... When the day is done and I think over the encounters I have had, these people are in my thoughts and prayers.”



Care About the Person Standing in Front of You Now!

What a reminder this is from Jim Cope, the dentist: every type of work and everyone we meet can be an opportunity for a caring ministry. Anyone who deals with people can be a loving, caring presence, just as Elijah reminded the king in the folktale!

Many of us don’t look forward to going to the dentist. But the manner and attitude of the Jim Cope made all the difference to his patients. So, let’s not forget all the people we encounter daily: store clerks, bank tellers, neighbors, law enforcement officers, colleagues at work. Being mindful of the present moment and the people we are with can be an opportunity for our day-to-day activities to practice caring ministries.

The Good Samaritan (see Luke 10:25-37 to refresh your memory)

Jesus told a story about an outsider Samaritan helping a stranger when others refused, and that story turned a first-century lawyer’s world upside down. To a first-century Jew, Samaritans were hated and to be avoided at all costs. To compare the morals and ethics of a common Samaritan to a priest and a Levite was blasphemous! Jesus’ parable answered the lawyer’s questions at the heart of Christianity: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” and “Who is my neighbor?”

We ask ourselves, “In this present moment do I see someone who is in need of care?” Two of the three in Jesus’s parable did nothing for the injured man. What would we do? For myself, I’d hope I would not leave him lying there with no help! After all, Jesus was very clear about who our neighbor is!

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Let us keep in our prayers: those who have died and were injured in the disastrous earthquake in Syria and Turkey; the people of New Zealand suffering from a cyclone; Joyce awaiting a medical procedure.