

Reflection for Friday, June 26, 2020

By Betty Leon, IHM

Book of Kings 25:1-12

Psalm 137: 1-6

Gospel of Matthew 8:1-4

Some people find the times we have been living through alarming; for others it's inspiring and motivating; for many quite uncomfortable, or just plain confusing.

Who to listen to? Where is it going? What's my place in it all?

This week, I spoke to someone who was sharing some of those feelings. They needed to vent their confusion and wonderings, questioning where God's presence *is* in all we are undergoing – from the mysteries of the Covid-19 pandemic and to the various responses to the inequality pandemic now more clearly unveiled.

The conversation revealed a willingness to follow requested disciplines for the sake of other people's safety and health. There is, as well, a heart open to seek understanding; a desire to listen and learn from others who have different perspectives, different voices coming from their own life experiences. And to uncover things we just never really knew.

We came to recognize that being *uncomfortable* may be a gifted place ...

Maybe that *is* the right place to be, when the Spirit wants to reveal something or teach us something or is asking us to change.

We do not want to be like those "stiff-necked" Israelites we have heard about all week. They decided to try to do things on their own. They simply *would not listen* to the prophets sent to them with God's commands.

Vulnerability, on the other hand, sets us in an attitude of *not* knowing it all, of *not* assuming superiority in background or status. It's the leper's way of coming to Jesus, humbly doing homage before asking for something clearly beyond his own ability; for trusting this "other" to care about *his* good. "Lord, if you wish to, you can make me clean."

The humility of the "beginner's mind" grants us the ability to test out a new idea, or a different experience – to see where it clashes with something we currently hold or just pokes us to question it. Like, "What courage do I need to allow this uncomfortable reality to even be, to even sit with?"

In the Gospels this week, Jesus keeps showing us that there is a way to live in this messy world, *His Way*. Jesus' teaching and his curing were available to all, his common table welcomed all, likely friend or possible foe. Jesus' teachings are clear, direct,

practical daily living directions: “Remove the beam ... Enter by the narrow gate ... Do unto others ... build on rock ...”

Jesus’ healings reveal the reign of the compassionate and trustworthy Abba God: “Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I will do it. Be made clean.’”

When was the last time, in imagination or in body, that you came to Jesus on your knees? What in you seeks healing at this time?

What healing do you believe *Jesus wishes to do for you*, now, for these times?

Will you ask?