

April 1, 2018 Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9
Acts 10:34-41

Summarize Lenten Building Bridges/Meeting
the Other series

Six foundations, ethical decision-making

1. Care/Harm
2. Fairness/Cheating
3. Sanctity-Purity/Degradation
4. Loyalty/Betrayal
5. Authority/Subversion
6. Freedom/Oppression

I am learning

- how judgmental I am
- how self-righteous I am
- how limited my vision is

trying to see with new eyes has caused
scripture passages to pop out in new ways
mostly around the word “all”

“On this mountain the Source of Life will
make for **all** peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged
wines,”

“And God will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over **all** peoples,”
“Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears
from **all** faces,”

I knew who was included in “all” and they
weren’t those I disagreed with

As important as Isaiah is to me, I have used
Peter’s words more often than not to
exclude, rather than include

“I truly understand that God shows no
partiality, but in every nation anyone who
fears God and does what is right is
acceptable to God.”

I am guilty of deciding what “fear of God” and
“doing what is right” looks like, thereby,
very often, condemning those on the other
side of the Divide

Saying I now understand and putting into
practice are two different things, but I am
trying

Building Bridges across a divide that has been
in the making for over 50 years will not
happen overnight

And the darkness, the animosity of these days
does make me anxious and fearful

But, but, we are an Easter people, a people
whose faith is challenged by resurrection – a
promise of

- light in the darkness,
- life in the face of death,
- renewed relationships rising from the ashes

So, this Easter taken on the challenge to step
out of the tomb of certainty that encloses
you – certainty of your rightness, your
“moral superiority”

Try to take off the blinders and put on the
shoes of the “other”

As scary as that may be, it is no more painful
that Good Friday

And, as best as I can tell, it is the only way we
will get to Easter

So shoulder your cross – meet the person on
the other side of your political divide

and see them as a loved child of God,

- whose tears are worthy of being dried,
- whose shroud also needs to be lifted,

- for whom God’s feast was also prepared

When you strive to do this, then you will be
putting Peter’s words into action: “I truly
understand that God shows no partiality.”

And light will shine in the darkness and all that
kills our humanity will be defeated and our
lives will be renewed. Amen.