

September 30, 2018

Luke 18:9-14

Welcome Home – our “re-boot” as family
Jesus Christ, our guide; our “under, between,
above, around us” – making us family
Serving neighbor and one another and the
church is what binds us together

This week we look at a “family dynamic”

Family Divisions

There is so much that can divide

- money, first and foremost
- imbalanced power
- jealousy
- abuse
- politics

Every family deals with divisions – nuclear,
faith, or greater community family – all
have, to greater or lesser extent, divisions

Sermon meant as lead-in to Building Bridges
conversations

Divide in our town, state, nation, and world
fear-inducing and debilitating

Where is the hope?

How do we build bridges?

Just like world peace, it begins with “me”, you
and me; with us

For one and a half years I have been struggling
with this divide

And my own divisive feelings

What I am beginning to see is how my own
self-righteousness gets in the way

While I may not be as self-righteous as the
Pharisee in Jesus’ story, my pride, my
certainty kept me from hearing and seeing
my neighbor, the one whose politics are so
deplorable.

And, while I do not see myself as the tax
collector, it will only be as I recognize how
far short **I** fall that my ears, eyes, and heart
will begin to open myself and hear, see, and
truly listen to my neighbor on the other side
of the divide

If we are going to begin to heal our divisions,
we must begin with humility

Some see humility as subservience,
submission, defeat

or worse, self-promotion – reverse psychology
We must lower ourselves, if we are to see our neighbor

Not because we are higher, but because our lack of humility has placed us above them

This is true of white privilege (if you think you don't have it, it is the sign that you do)

Holds true when seeking to “see” the homeless, welfare recipient,

Surely, humility is helpful in your own family

It is definitely true, when reaching across the political divide.

Which is what we are trying to do the next 4 Tuesday evenings at the Library

I encourage you to attend for a variety of reasons

- good listening practice
- good learning experience
- doors might open to your neighbor

If we do not begin to listen and speak to one another with humility, the divide deepens and we imperil not only ourselves, but the future for all of us, especially our children

But, if you humble yourself and listen you stand a chance to experience Jesus' promise: “if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

Let us strengthen our faith family by seeking, humbly, to build bridges wherever we experience a divide.

May God bless us with the humility we need to open our ears, eyes, and heart.

Amen.