



Bag Lady

August 14, 2022

Luke 10:1-11 (NRSV)

Connect

- Erykah Badu's *Bag Lady* was the Broadway member submitted song of focus for week six of our sermon series, "*Then Sings My Soul: Finding Sacred Hope in Secular Music.*" If you have familiarity with the song, speak to your memories of it. Pull up the song on the streaming source of your choosing and play it for the group. Share initial impressions. Name what sticks out to you and why.

Engage

- Read **Luke 10:1-11 (NRSV)**. This sending of the seventy is a bold and new approach of the Jesus movement. They were the hype crew of the Jesus tour, brewing up interest in what Jesus was about with the locals before Jesus came to visit their city. More frequently, Jesus asked those closest to him not to speak of who he was just yet. Why do you think his approach was different here? Do you share your faith with others? If so, how?
- There are many types of bags we carry around every day that weigh us down and hold us back from the free life God intends for us. What weight(s) do you feel are the heaviest ones you're carrying right now?
- Jesus instructs the seventy to share with people, "*The Kingdom of God has come near to you.*" What do you think that meant in that day? What does that mean to you today?
- Erykah Badu sings that the only thing you need to show up to your life with "*is you, you, you!*" Jesus seems to suggest the same in our Lukan passage for today. Do you agree? How do you interpret what this suggests for your life?
- Striking a chord with listeners, this song won two Grammys for Erykah Badu. Some have suggested the song speaks to our emotional histories that hinder us from trusting others in relationship; stop us from being vulnerable in new relationships which is the basis for any depth of form. Do you struggle to be vulnerable in relationships? Is it a trust issue? Something else? What does it mean to be vulnerable with God?

Next Steps

- Download Erykah Badu's *Bag Lady* and listen to it several times through. Each time, pull out words, phrases or ideas as you hear them and reflect further on what is being said. Feel the music and discern how it makes you feel. What of this song might shape you moving forward in a positive way?

Pray

"The sacred and secular dance together at all times, God. Thank you for moving through a lyric or a riff in a way that gets right to our souls. Music is so often the direct beat of our spirits. Keep us leaning in and living eyes and ears forward. Help us leave our baggage behind and step boldly into the future you have for us. Amen."