



More Faithfully Present

October 23, 2022

Luke 8:1-15

Connect:

- It's Homecoming Sunday at Broadway! We are grateful for every person and prayer that has made the last 64 years of ministry possible. What a gift! Speak to a favorite homecoming memory of any kind (*school, church, town, etc*) and/or share a favorite moment at Broadway throughout the years.

Engage

- Read *Luke 8:1-15*. Jesus taught in parables all the time. He was an exceptional story teller and always with a point that would hit home with most listeners. Sometimes, however, the points were less discernable or listeners were distracted. We get a unique glimpse in this passage of scripture of Jesus telling a parable and then explaining it to the disciples. Many a preacher have looked at this passage and asked, "*What kind of soil are you?*" Considering the parable with the different terrain named, answer that question for yourself: what kind of soil are you? Has that answer changed over time? If so, why?
- It is interesting that Jesus first tells the disciples, "*I'll let you in on the secrets of the kingdom of God but to others I speak in parables so as to keep them out of the loop.*" That's a paraphrase of course (*verses 9-10*). Why would Jesus offer any teaching that was intentionally confusing? Why do you think Jesus was not always more direct with his teaching?
- Preacher, Rev. Bill Ryan, offers a word about what it means to be "*more faithfully present.*" How would you define what it means to be "*more faithfully present?*"
- Phrases like "*Love where you are while you're there,*" and "*Be where your feet are*" are both statements about living in the present. What is your greatest disrupter to being present where your feet are in this season of your life? What adjustments can you make to practice presence with fewer disruptions?

Next Steps:

- You need to get out more this week! Commit to a spirit of hospitality as you move about the city. Be more faithfully present. Intentional listening is essential to being a good neighbor. How will you listen more intentionally this week? Find a way. Practice good listening. See what that transforms in your own spirit.

Pray:

- Share joys and concerns about your lives with your group. Lift those in prayer.
- Pray courage for yourself and our church to be the most hospitable people in Columbia!
- "*Lord, help me engage my neighbors with love and kindness. Give me a curious spirit that I might listen more closely to the needs of those I meet. Help me be the answer to someone else's prayer. Amen.*"