

Make More Room

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

It seems that today you can't turn around without encountering some way that lines are being drawn between people, be it based on ideals, geography or identity. Classification is a key cognitive ability that allows us to navigate reality, but when it comes to people it can work against our common good.

1. What is a group of people that you don't agree with, or understand, or generally do not want to engage with?
2. What makes it challenging for you to connect with other groups to which you feel opposed? Is it ideals, or culture, or something else that is the biggest hurdle for you?
3. Name some groups that you believe others might lump you into.

Book

Matthew 21:23-32

Once again, Jesus proves he can't be trapped by the words of the chief priests. More than that though, Jesus uses the opportunity to illuminate how that temple authorities have become complacent in the status quo. It is this very complacency that has them trapped, blocking themselves from the Kingdom of God.

1. What does this fear of "the people" (v26) reveal about the minds of the temple authorities?
2. How does the parable of the two sons speak to you personally as an individual?
3. In drawing lines the way he does, how does Jesus invite these so called authorities to redefine their roles?

Took

Our own uniqueness exists only as a contrast to the uniqueness of others. Thusly when we attempt to diminish the value of another person, we diminish the value of ourselves. However fear, more than anything else, can drive us to draw lines of separation as attempt to protect ourselves. The causes of such fear are as many and varied as we are individuals.

1. Why is agreeing with a person not a prerequisite to valuing that person?
2. How can helping others around us to be more open to different groups also help you to be more open to different groups?
3. How can you practice, in a practical way this week, making more room at the table for others that are different?

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