



“How do you spell the word A-S-S-U-M-E?”

Years ago, someone asked me that question, with a smile, after I’d totally missed the mark on an assumption I’d been carrying. I don’t remember what exactly it was even about. But I do remember the feeling it left in me. Because I tend to be a “high-end intuitive”, I tend to quickly assess a situation. Sometimes those assessments are spot on. Sometimes they are out in left field. I will a-s-s-u-m-e certain elements to be true. Solid ground.

Then I’m surprised when that “solid” ground becomes a quicksand that tries to swallow me. Humbling, for sure.

We all make assumptions about life... but be careful.

This morning, in our Zoom study of “Everybody Matters: A Look at Luke’s Gospel”, we discussed the passage in Luke 7: 31-35. In it, Jesus takes a look at how we make assumptions (wrongly) and dismiss valuable wisdom that is there right in front of us, to help guide us into more productive and happy living. We are “children in the marketplace” making snap judgments that simply protect a skewed view of reality. In the process, we dismiss any possible value that might come from those sources because our assumptions have created a safe distance or separation. We have screened out a possible voice of wisdom.

I think the voice of God often comes as a whisper. It’s a fragile thing, “meek and lowly” as Jesus describes himself in Matthew 11: 28-30 or as the prophet Isaiah described the Servant of God in Isaiah 42: 2-3. Yet, in the very next verse, this powerless presence exerts power to “establish justice in the earth”. God’s quiet whisper unleashes untold energy to create and transform. The real question is... am I listening?

Real listening for me means I have to be willing to jettison assumptions that get in the way. This is the “ear wax” that slowly clogs our auditory canals. It’s easy to remain unaware of our diminishing ability to hear clearly. But I can also choose to be more aware of my condition and do something about it. So how do we deal with spiritual “ear wax”? (I taught biology so apologies if this is gross... or if you’re in the middle of lunch)

For me, I need to commit to a different set of ground rules or basic assumptions. To be able to truly hear the deeper wisdom in any situation, I enter with these assumptions:

- My ability to perceive people and situations accurately is hampered by my limited experience of life. Therefore, I must handle those perceptions *lightly and loosely*.
- There is a greater wisdom that I can connect to if I loosen my grip on my “wisdom” and more actively pursue that higher wisdom.

- To connect to the better wisdom also requires me to exercise courage and love, at some level.

So, am I really willing to pay the price for deep wisdom? When I appreciate the value of a wisdom that can guide me to a place of profound peace and well being, I am motivated to let go of my old wisdom and its accompanying assumptions, choosing a path of courage and risk and a generous love. And love specifically invites me to lay down my weapons of defense and assumptions about the “enemy”. Love trusts that Another will provide a level of safety appropriate for any given situation. So now, freed up from my fears, I can move more confidently into a new way of dealing with any challenging situation.

*Deep wisdom* can move beyond the flimsy facade of my assumptions and truly make a positive difference in the lives of those around me... and beyond. Deep in my heart, I believe we are all called to that deep wisdom. It’s the only hope for this little blue dot we call home.

*Scott*

Join us on Sunday mornings @ 10:30 for practical wisdom on living well: on Facebook Live! (Lighthouse Christian Church) or in the sanctuary or set up a lawn chair just outside the old north entrance. The double doors will be open and speakers broadcasting. Choose a connection that works for you and be inspired!