

FROM PASTOR MARC'S OFFICE...

As religious icons go, Jesus is very peculiar.

When we look at other religious icons throughout the ages (such as Zeus, for example in Greek mythology), we see gods who were celebrated for their power, might, and dominance. Even the story of Genesis paints the picture of a grand and majestic Creator who, simply by his word, brings order and design to a dark and formless void. Grand, cosmic forces who can do grand, cosmic things. Perhaps we imagine that religion (similarly) must be about finding the grand, cosmic answers to our most grand and cosmic questions.

See, this is what makes Jesus so weird. When Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, the images he chooses almost never get particularly cosmic with us. When Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, the images he uses are the common and the everyday. A woman and her lost coin. Weeds and wheat. A shepherd who tends to his sheep. A father who welcomes his prodigal son home. Bread that is broken and wine that is poured.

What makes Jesus peculiar is that he saw sacredness in the most common, ordinary, and mundane. He had an affinity for sinners, and his livelihood was kept pretty humble and simple.

I wonder how often we imagine our own spirituality that way. A few weeks ago you heard me share a story about Janet and Scotty from the pulpit (you can listen to that sermon here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6afkfmh>). Personally, I've never seen the sky open up, or heard the voice of God booming out of the clouds, or anything like that. However, when I think about Scotty's story, I realize that Janet's impact on his life was as powerful as any burning bush.

I hope that you will take some time to reflect on the people and the places where God's presence was made known to you in powerful ways, too.

If Jesus can see the sacred in common and ordinary people, places, and things, then Jesus can see the sacredness in our own stories, too.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Marc