



March 13, 2022

Sermon Series

Full to the Brim

This Week's Big Idea

Under God's Wing.....maybe

Lenten Introduction: *The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise —these sacred texts are brimming with a Gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.*

Luke 13:31-35 NRSV

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Bible Conversation

Why did Herod want to kill Jesus?

Who is "Jerusalem?"

Who needs protection and why?

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Reflection by Pastor Rob Zahn

Have you ever used a Keurig? You know, one of those single serve coffee makers. Well, more times than I care to admit, I have brewed 12 oz. of coffee when I only had an 8oz cup. Do you know what happens when you do that? The cup runs over. The coffee goes everywhere, and it gets messy.

Today's text is less about a God who is like a mother hen protecting her chicks, and more about why those chicks need protection in the first place. This may be far less about God and far more about you and about me. It is about our response to who God is and what God does. It is about what happens when our cup is *full to the brim* and God's love keeps pouring out and into us.

The key is to ask why Herod wants to kill Jesus in the first place. What is so dangerous about Jesus? What is so subversive? What has Jesus been doing to warrant such a violent response from the powers that be?

The answer? Healing...healing at the wrong time.

That doesn't sound very subversive, and certainly not worthy of death. But it was in that context. I submit that there is something just as dangerous about healing, sharing, caring, and loving people today as it was for Jesus back then. Maybe not dangerous for our lives, but certainly dangerous for the comfort, expectations, hopes, and dreams for our life as we know it.

Uncle Marty (Martin Luther) wrote in "*On the Freedom of a Christian*" (1520): "As our heavenly Father has in Christ freely come to our aid, we also ought freely to help our neighbor through our body and its works and each one should become as it were a Christ to the other..."

Because of who God is and what God does, we are already *full to the brim* with God's love, grace, care, forgiveness, and mercy. The question is, are we willing to allow that love, grace, care, forgiveness, and mercy to overflow from us and make a mess for the sake of the other. Are we willing to be like Jesus and care for the other even at the cost of our lives as we know it?

Reflection Conversation

How does it strike you that Jesus may have been dangerous and subversive to the culture simply by being a healer and caring for the other?

How are you dangerously healing the other?

Is your cup filled to the brim?

The 1 Question:

In what dangerous and subversive ways are you being like Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Creator God, we know that you are a God who has already filled us to the brim with love and acceptance, even if we don't always feel and experience it in the midst of the busyness of our daily lives. Give us the strength to allow your continually flowing love to make a mess through us for the sake of the other. Help us to be like you, loving, caring, accepting, and merciful...at all costs. Amen.

Next Week's Bible Theme and Text:

Sermon Series: Full to the Brim

Text: Luke 13:1-9

1 week.
1 story.
1 message.

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