

Communion With the Heart of Creation
Shared November 6, 2011
Based on Mark 3:1-6, 28-30

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.'⁴Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

28 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— ³⁰for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

At the center of the Creation is Mystery. We dare to give that mystery a name as if a human word could somehow capture its essence. It is folly to do so but we must do it so that we can share the infinite with the finite. The name we dare to give it is GOD. At the center of God is a heart of love.

Out of the heart of Creation flows a Spirit of Life and Love which gives life to all things and meaning to human existence.

This is the meaning of Jesus' challenge to the challengers. When he asked, "Which is better; to do harm or to do good, to save life or to kill?" He was asking which is better; to participate with the Spirit of Life and Love and its newest thrust in the midst of history or to deny it and resist it?

They knew the right answer and they knew what they were doing but they remained silent.

The story conveys an incident of healing but the story is really about making a decision about participating or resisting the Spirit's work in the world.

Communion with the heart of Creation is communion with the Spirit which flows from the heart of Creation. Communion happens when we experience the other as a real person and we experience the eternal thou through the other person. When this happens we cannot ignore their beauty or their need. Only when we deny this communion can we reduce their humanity, ignore their need, and take up a gun and kill them.

Communion with the heart of Creation happens when we experience a sense of relatedness to all creatures and we act accordingly in the interest of all and not just in our own species self interest.

Communion with the heart of Creation happens when we cross an internal threshold from holding a conviction about the eternal worth of life to actually being embraced by the Spirit of Life.

It is in these moments of awareness that belief, trust, hope, and vision is reborn in us and we live in love and grace and community with all things. It is in these moments that we realize that time, space, matter, and energy is not the sum total of all that is but there is Spirit as well. Spirit permeates everything and is the source of everything.

Blasphemy is intentionally and knowingly turning our backs on this truth. Blasphemy is intentionally and knowingly turning our backs on the work of the Spirit of Live and Love.

It is not an unforgivable sin because some super being up there and out there somewhere is so offended and hurt that they cannot forgive. It is unredeemable because it orients the human heart and mind in a way that the Spirit cannot reach us because we will not let it. In some ways the “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” is the ultimate respecter of human freedom and human destiny. It is also an indication of our limitations and our need for community.

“Blasphemy is an old fashion word that conjures up feelings of judgment and irrelevance but lets not be too quick to throw it away before we understand the depth of meaning it can convey. Blasphemy is waiting on someone or some other god to rescue us. This delusion is not accepting life of life’s terms and perpetuates living in denial of the already present giftedness of life. Blasphemy is...

saying no to our life as it is,

saying no to our situation as impossible and hopeless,

Saying God is not present here,

Saying God has no power here and now,

Blasphemy is mocking God which is the same as scoffing at life itself.”

Blasphemy is denying and resisting our communion with the Heart of Creation. This is a very difficult thing to do because all we do has the potential for communion with the Spirit of Life and Love.