

Reflection Monday Week 14 2022

The pandemic taught us an important lesson about presence and touch. Pictures showed the elderly in care home trying to touch their grandchildren through a glass window, evoking a sense of sadness. Jesus showed the importance of both presence and of touch. By touching Jesus' garments, a lady was healed of long-term bleeding. Jesus takes the hand of the child, supposedly dead, and she rises to life. We gain strength from each other whenever we come together.

Ronald Rolheiser writes:

One of the reasons we struggle with faith is that God's presence within us and in our world is rarely dramatic, overwhelming, sensational or something impossible to ignore. Rather, God's presence lies quietly inside us, rarely making a huge splash.

Jesus was born with no fanfare and no power; a baby lying helpless in the straw, another child among millions. Nothing spectacular to human eyes surrounded his birth.

Jesus' teaching about God's presence in our lives makes clear that this presence is mostly quiet and hidden, a plant growing silently as we sleep, yeast leavening dough in a manner hidden from our eyes, summer slowly turning a barren tree green, an insignificant mustard plant eventually surprising us with its growth, a man or woman forgiving an enemy. God works in ways that are quiet and hidden from our eyes. In other words, God lies deep within us in a way that's almost non-evident, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored.

This is important for understanding faith. God lies in us as an invitation that fully respects our freedom, never overpowers us; yet never goes away. It lies there like a baby lying helpless in the straw, gently beckoning us, but helpless in itself to make us pick it up.

Unlike most everything else that seeks our attention, God never tries to overwhelm us. God, respects our freedom. For this reason, God is found everywhere, within us and around us, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored: a quiet, gentle nudge; but, if drawn upon, the ultimate stream of love and energy.

A deaf man had a bike helmet that would vibrate if there was a noise of a car behind him to alert him of its presence. You could call it his **handy cap**.

What do you call a rabbit that has fleas? **Bugs bunny!!**