

Palimpsest* (pa • limp • sest)

Week of **October 17, 2021**
21th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon: Stories of Courage: Peter
Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Supplemental Reading

“If you are not in the arena (getting beaten up), I’m not interested in or open to your feedback. There are a million cheap seats in the world today filled with people who will never be brave with their lives but who will spend every ounce of energy they have hurling advice and judgment at those who dare greatly. Their only contributions are criticism, cynicism, and fearmongering. If you’re criticizing from a place where you’re not also putting yourself on the line, I’m not interested in what you have to say.”

– Brown, B. (2018) *Dare to Lead*.

Sometimes when a new idea hits the table, the knee-jerk reaction is, “That’s not how we do it” or “We’ve never done it that way.”...We can also use the invisible army: “We don’t want to change course,” or “We don’t like the direction you’re taking the project.” I hate the invisible army, and if you use it with me I will drill you down on exactly who makes up your “we.”

– Brown, B. (2018) *Dare to Lead*.

Then Jesus put it to them straight: “Who do YOU say that I am?” Nobody wanted to stick his neck out, and the silence was deafening till Peter broke it or till it washed up against the rock that Peter was and broke itself. “You’re the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” It took a lot of guts to say, and Jesus knew it did. If it was true, it was enough to blow the lid off everything. If it wasn’t true, you could get yourself stoned to death as a blasphemer for just thinking it. But Peter said it anyway, and Jesus made up for him the only beatitude he ever made up for a single individual and said “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona,”...what he always called him when he really meant business. Then he went back to Peter the Rock again and told him that he was the rock he wanted to build his church on and that as soon as he got to Heaven, he was to be the one to decide who else got in. “I will give you the keys of the kingdom,” Jesus said. It was another promotion.

– Buechner, F. (1979) *Peculiar Treasures: A Biblical Who’s Who*.

* A Palimpsest is: 1: writing material (as a parchment or tablet) used one or more times, 2: something having unusually diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface

Your Notes

Engaged Feedback:

- 1) I'm ready to sit next to you rather than across from you.
- 2) I'm willing to put the problem in front of us rather than between us (or sliding it toward you).
- 3) I'm ready to listen, ask questions, and accept that I may not fully understand the issue.
- 4) I want to acknowledge what you do well instead of picking apart your mistakes.
- 5) I recognize your strengths and how you can use them to address your challenges.
- 6) I can hold you accountable without shaming or blaming you.
- 7) I'm willing to own my part.
- 8) I can genuinely thank you for your efforts rather than criticize you for your failings.
- 9) I can talk about how resolving these challenges will lead to your growth and opportunity.
- 10) I can model the vulnerability and openness that I expect to see from you.

- Brown, B. (2018) *Dare to Lead*.

Questions

- Who is in your square squad? Whose feedback is most important to you?
- Are you able to give constructive, non-shaming feedback? How can you grow in this area?
- How is Peter's story inspirational, or helpful, for you?