

Homily How Is It With Your Spirit?

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Rev. Sarah and Jesus played by Jeff Stevens

Sarah: Have you ever answered the question "Who would you invite to dinner?" You know how it goes: "Which five or six or ten or twenty-five famous people living or dead would you invite to the World's Greatest Dinner Party?" Let's put a new spin on this famous old question. If you invited Jesus to dinner, what questions might Jesus ask of you?

Sarah: Good morning

Jeff: Good morning. Nice little church you've got here.

Sarah: Thanks. I enjoyed listening to you with our kids.

Jeff: They seem like a lively bunch.

You know, my disciples
didn't understand at first
why I liked talking to children
and used to try and hold them back.
I told them to leave them alone
and let them come to me,
because Heaven is meant
for people like them.
Are children important to this church?

Sarah: Yes, they are our future, and they are also our present. I hope they'll remember some of our teachings, and go out and teach others. And I hope they'll be part of another Unitarian Universalist congregation when they grow up. I know I learn from them all the time.

Jeff: Like what?

Sarah: Oh, like what is important about getting along, and why it can be hard sometimes to do the right thing.

Jeff: Hard for children
and harder for grown-ups.
Getting along, doing the right thing,
doing right by people –
that was the point I was trying to make, only it was hard for people to hear.
I had to do some crazy things to get their attention.
Do *you* believe in miracles?

Sarah: Um, I guess I don't. I mean, if you're talking about defying the laws of nature, no. I guess I'm like Albert Schweitzer – you know him?

Jeff: Very well.

Sarah: Well, he said: There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle. He thought we only knew a fraction of what was out there and how things worked, so amazing things could happen that were mysteries to us, because we just didn't know enough yet.

Jeff: Well, I did amazing things to get people to listen to me: to hear the truth of what I was saying and see the truth I was seeing. It was exhausting, let me tell you! But sometimes you have to be amazing to get your message across. Speaking of which, what is your message? What is your truth?

Sarah: You mean me? Or our church? We're a pretty diverse bunch you know.

Jeff: Sarah, they should be one and the same. What do you care about *so much* that you want everyone to know? I wanted everyone to know that we could make heaven here on earth, right here, right now, if we could just treat one another right. And I had some pretty strong ideas about how we should treat one another. A lot of people, even my friends, didn't agree with me. I did amazing things. I told stories to make people see things a different way. But I guess it all boiled down to what I told my friends: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." And that is exactly what I did. So what is your message? What do you want to be known for? What do you care about more than life?

Sarah: I guess pretty much the same things you care about – I just don't think there's one right way to go about it, no offense.

Jeff: None taken. What does *your* spirit tell you to do?

Sarah: I believe we need to treat ourselves with respect and others too. I get frustrated with myself when I forget that. I want to be a caring person, but I feel like I don't do enough. I get angry when I see our rules and our laws being unfair and hurting others, but I'm not sure what to do – what can one person do?

That's why I joined a church, so that I could care about people and feel they cared about me. And so that my voice could be added to the voices of others when we want to shout out loud that something is wrong, or sing out loud when something feels right.

Jeff: It's good that you care,
but it's no good to keep that caring inside these walls. I preached out in the world. I preached *to* the world.

What is your message to others?

What do you want to be known for? What do you care about more than life? What are you willing to do?

Sarah: I guess that may be the most important question in front of us today: what is our message, what do we want to be known for, what do we sing to the universe, what is our vision and what will we give to it? Thank you Jesus, thank you. A-lo-la-yo, A-bo-la-yo.

Jeff: Blessings on the journey, friends, blessings on the journey.