

## Message Based Questions - March 5, 2017

*Kent Dobson - Healthy Spirituality*

### Liturgy Reading

When you take the Way of Jesus seriously, you encounter resistance. Jesus calls us to love our enemies, but our society kills its enemies. Jesus calls us to Jubilee, but ours is a nation of debt. Jesus calls us to befriend the ostracized, but ours is a society of alienation and division. Jesus challenges us to name spiritual forces of oppression, but ours is a civilization that numbs us expertly with the opiates of entertainment and material goods. Following Jesus is a way of resistance. - Mark Van Steenwyk

### Possible Discussion Points/Questions

**It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God.**

- After hearing Kent talk about this phrase of Jesus, how would you explain this statement?

**Personally, I think we have a lot of 'unloading' to do when it comes to our view of God.**

- How do you feel about your load when it comes to your view of God? Do you feel like you have unloading to do?

**Some people approach the Bible like a personal DaVinci code - the secret to my life's purpose (God's will) is found in here for me!**

- How does your approach to the Bible compare to that?

**I think we have a failure of imagination when it comes to the Bible.**

- In what ways do you think imagination is involved in using the Bible?

**Maybe the Bible is true in a way that I am unfamiliar with. Maybe the stories are true not because they *happened*, but because they're *happening*.**

- Explain what you think Kent meant by this statement.

**van Gogh's sunflower painting. It's an impression, a work of art that comes over me... it's not a wikipedia article on how to grow sunflowers.**

- How would you describe people using the Bible as a Wikipedia article?

**Maybe we're being asked to have a new sensitivity to the Bible.**

- How do you think you can cultivate and read with a new sensitivity?

**The story is supposed to mirror back to us something that is deeply true. The book of Jonah is showing us what it means to be in the depths and to feel like you're losing everything, and then you're spit out on the other side and have to make your way.**

- Where/when have you seen the Bible reflect back to you?

### Closing Prayer

Thank you that we have the Bible to learn from. Show us how to approach it with a new sensitivity.

Amen.