

Presence, Truth and Judgement

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Starting this talk a week ago...

- ◆ One of the dilemmas that we live with is that there is so much that we're all doing wrong as we try to live well in this world, but the typical ways that we call it out, judge it, often backfire.

My FB post yesterday morning:

After the clear words and example of Jesus, early Christians completely rejected war for three centuries. After being seduced into supporting Empire, the church eventually compromised earlier principles and accepted "just war theory," though historians question the degree to which many, if any, wars truly met the criteria with any consistency.

This war against Iran is the opposite of a just war. It is utterly impossible to be a follower of Jesus with any integrity and justify this war.



NO WAR. IN IRAN



"If you had only known on this day, *even you*, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

LUKE 19:42

St. Stephen's
UNIVERSITY

THE PRACTICE OF BEING PRESENT

with Bonnie Badenoch, PhD, LMFT

we'll know that we're truly present to a person when the stream of judgements that's usually playing in the back of our minds is relatively silent – or at least enough in the background that those judgements stop determining the story we hear



◆ “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.” (Matthew 7.1-2)

This is Jesus:

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in you stop them.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.



This is Jesus:

- to a rich young ruler

As he was setting out on a journey, a man (rich ruler) ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ...

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.



This is Jesus:

to a chief tax collector,

“Zacchaeus, hurry and
come down, for I must stay
at your house today.”



There is a rhythm in being like Jesus,
wholly in the world together

- ◆ We clearly name a compassionate truth, without compromise
- ◆ We vulnerably make space to be truly open and present to those we encounter, even when (especially when?) they think differently from us