

Power in Your Hands (Week 3)

Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 5:21-34

OPEN

Would you say you live a *privileged* life?

What constitutes privilege?

DISCUSS

What do you observe in people/society when they gain or live in privilege for a long period of time?

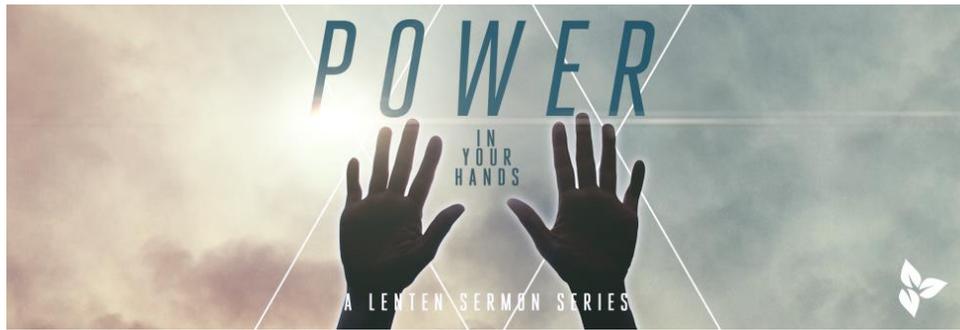
Do you think Jesus was privileged? Why or why not?

How did Jesus use his power (from what you can remember from his ministry)?

Read Mark 5:21-43.

- Briefly describe the two miracles in this passage. How do they differ from one another?
- Where was Jesus going and with whom before he was interrupted by a woman in need (who by the laws of their society should not have been in public—she was *unclean* and would make others unclean who touched her).
- What is your impression of Jesus who stops to help an unprivileged woman in the midst of the ministry call he was making?

Notice the life of Jesus—he helps, heals, touches, and is with those both with and without privilege. Jesus' has divine ability to focus on the people who needed his power so that they might flourish and grow. Any other stories from Jesus' life come to mind?



How does this story from Jesus' life challenge you?

React and discuss this quote:

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death." — Elie Wiesel

What "power" do you have in your current reality of life (which is privileged in many ways)? (Really wrestle with this question.)

Consider this quote:

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

YOUR NEXT STEP...

- Reflect on the power and privilege you have in your current life situation, living in Chicagoland. What do you have that many in this world do not?
- Pay attention this week to the people you encounter each day. Listen for God's prompting to not just notice, but to make a choice in how you can see them, respond to them, love them. Report back to your group on what you experience.