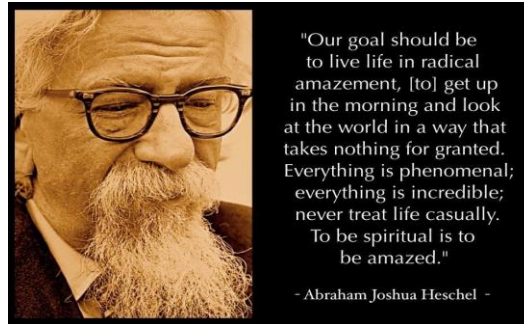


Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Aug 21, 2016

**Notes for the sermon on What Delights the People?
Ps 103:1-8 and Luke 13:10-17 – Sermon Text = Luke 13:17**

***When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame;
and the entire crowd was rejoicing
at all the wonderful things he was doing.***

[Hymns = 78, 704, 410 in the Canadian Presbyterian Book of Praise]



Key Ideas

1. Rigid rules vs compassion – that’s the core point Luke wants to make in recounting this healing – rigid rules that permit people to ignore or dismiss suffering – compassion that connects people in caring that heals – that’s the stark contrast that shames the authorities who oppose Jesus and divides them the people who welcome him – Jesus is clearly on the side of compassion - and we are called to make the same choice time after time, in all of the fascinating details of our daily lives
2. The picture this morning is of a delightful and distinguished Jewish scholar named Abraham Joshua Heschel – his spiritual roots are in Hasidic Judaism – among other emphases, it delights in finding the presence of God in the ordinary, everyday, blessings of life – everything is infused by God’s love – we just have to tap into the inspired insights of the Holy Spirit to see the world this way – the way, I would suggest, that Jesus saw the world and where the people, immersed as they were in the ordinary and the everyday, knew instinctively that God was present and blessing them – many parallels to the Celtic tradition in Christianity – finding joy in the opportunities provided by our daily round of activities to be compassionate and caring
3. This way of being may simply go unnoticed, except for those blessed by your caring – if it is noticed, it may challenge the priorities of those who are caught in the grip of callous capitalism and of racist or privileged politics – as happened in Jesus day, these ways of seeing and being in the world are deeply entrenched and are bitterly opposed to the ways of Jesus, the ways of caring and compassion – but the ways of Jesus are the ways of being in the world that bring authentic rejoicing and delight to God’s beloved creatures

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

How can we develop and enhance habits of what Heschel calls “radical amazement,” of finding ways to offer compassion in the ordinary opportunities God gives us everyday to simply care