OCTOBER 1, 2019

Lk 9: 51-56

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; But they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

Journey as one

When it comes to easing panic and pain, people who love each other are willing to do just about anything to help. You know, like when your wife is pregnant or your child is hurt, you neglect every traffic law imaginable to get to the hospital. Or you find out someone is going to hurt your younger sibling and you go up to them and threaten them with bodily harm.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus’s friends offer to call down heavenly fire and consume people who show him disrespect- in essence, to kill them. Jesus’s answer: “Are you out of your MINDS? We’ll just find another town to visit…”

Love and loyalty can be beautifully reckless, and our desires to help loved ones at all costs comes from a good place. But, as Jesus shows us in this Gospel, perhaps the better course is to simply remain together. In moments of panic and pain, perhaps we don’t need to fix anything at all, but journey on as one.

Have you ever flown off the handle in a panic?

How did it end up?

Thinking back on it, was there a better way to handle the situation?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Teach me to love others the way you first loved me. As I build relationships with others, let them see you in the extent of my generosity, the authenticity of my kindness, and the depths of my love. All of those things are only possible through you, the God who abides with me and calls me friend.

Amen