

~I grew up playing cards - hearts, rummy, and eventually bridge

In seemingly all cases reds & blacks, diamonds & hearts red, clubs & spades black

And then one day... **reversed!!** could not say... had to look more deeply @ shape

~How we perceive phenomena & events that occur in our lives depends on how we view them

~We all have perceptual filters & make interpretive choices & sometimes we all miss things

I believe God in Jesus challenges us to look deeper & find new shapes, new meanings!!

~This morning, I want to share a deeper look at a bit of Mark - a familiar one for me

"...and he had compassion on them..." = a regular descriptor for Jesus

~This week I found myself asking a question about these words that I had never asked before

For most folks in these verses, It's all about healing - Then & Now

But often in the gospels, Jesus heals & then asks that it not be advertised

It is not just about healing for him. there is more to it

~I believe Jesus does *not* come as an itinerant healer - he comes to teach a new way

For me as I examined this word this week it is not about **having** the power to heal

It is having an overwhelming love for us that motivates using that power

~it is easy to see our God, even as found in Jesus the Christ, as powerful, the Creator!!

He does many miracles (feeds 5K, walks on water - from same chapter in Mark)

But I found myself connecting with a much stronger & not so automatic message

~The Power behind the universe loves us so much that God cannot not act in this moment.

~Now it does not mean that God, or even God in Christ, is going to fix it all. I am clear on that

Look in the 23rd Psalm this morning, verse 4 -

It **does not say** that he will suck us out of the valley It says that he will be with us in it.

~Yet it seems a part of God's experience as the human/divine being Jesus

that he cannot be in the presence of brokenness without wanting to lovingly heal it

~In the history of our faith, it seems to me that we have spent a great deal more time

addressing God's powers than **God's deep love for every & all.**

~Maybe clubs and spades really are red!

Maybe we need to be about seeing all the world and all its people

through God's loving eyes and heart...

~Some thoughts are too limiting - God in Jesus invites us to un-limit

From John's gospel =

"Love one another as I have loved you and so be known as my disciples"

~That **is** what it is about and we will be wonderfully blessed as we live into that love.

~ I suggest that God in Jesus challenges us to look ever deeper & find new shapes,

new & wonderful meanings in the words of our scripture - Have at it!!

Amen! Alleluia!