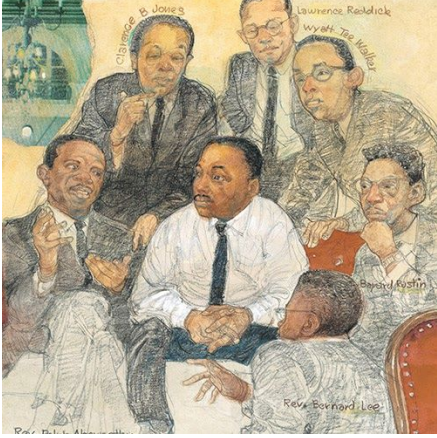


ROOTS AND DREAMS
By Rev. Todd Farnsworth
Mark 4:1-9



Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3

"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

9 Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

It is every public speaker's reality. You put out your ideas. You share your dreams. You scatter seeds that you hope will grow...but the reality is that a lot can happen between the ideas you want to share leaving your mouth

and the fruit you planted providing sweet sustenance for your audience...or congregation.

Jesus understood this. Martin Luther King understood this. On the anniversary weekend of his birth, I look to King (who was a gifted preacher) and try to rescatter some of his seeds in hope that they'll grow for a new generation. This year I was blessed with a book about Dr. King that is written by Barry Wittenstein and illustrated by our own Jerry Pinkney. The book is about the preparing and planting of dreams that last.

I had asked Jerry if he would read it to you today; unfortunately, he has a funeral to attend and is not with us. Jerry was, however, gracious enough to share his illustrations of the story with us, so that if you move your seat a little, you can experience the story as if you were holding the book in your hands. So I give you, [A Place to Land](#).

[\(click this link to hear the book being read with illustrations on screen\)](#)

I can say that Dr. King's seeds put down deep roots in my life. His dream of the need for all people to live together working for peace and justice for one another resonates across the years into the work I am called to.

I wonder what kind of "place to land" you would consider yourself? Your neighbor? Our leaders in government? One can often tell the soil by the fruit.

Over the weekend there was vandalism reported at an Episcopal Church in Pleasantville.

Tonight at 7:30pm, the Briarcliff Ossining Ministerial Association will sponsor a program at the Star of Bethlehem Church honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There will be a talk about healing and justice in Ireland.

I wonder if there is time to replant for a season that bears more spiritually healthy fruit?

As Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." Amen.