

PossABILITY Sunday 2015 Sermon Ideas
7 Easter B "All Mine are Yours"
John 17:6-19

In this passage from John's Gospel, Jesus prays for His disciples whom He loves very much. From this framework, the preacher who would like to recognize disability awareness, might create a sermon-prayer of love for what worship could be like, what the world would be like, if we embraced those with challenges. We live in "the world" but are called to be separate from it as well. How can we improve the world we live in by including and treasuring those who are different?

A preacher could contrast the world's view of those with special needs with the way Christ embraces all those who are given to Him. When Jesus says "They do not belong to the world" it challenges the values of the world. We do not belong the world's ways of prejudice and stereotyping. Christ has opened the door for another way of seeing someone's worth as a fellow child of God.

In this text, before He faces the cross, Jesus prays that He has made God's name known to those given to Him. This would include all people – the ones who can't see too well, the ones who don't understand as much, the ones who have a hard time getting around. All of them are God's; all of them are entrusted to Christ's church.

Jesus especially emphasizes the sense of belonging. "All mine are yours" is a message of community. As followers, we have a responsibility to look out for God's community. According to the African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a village to raise up the faithful as well. Jesus came to share God with the people. We must also realize that the church has sometimes set up unintentional barriers that may keep some of God's people from entering into a fellowship. In what loving ways can we build some bridges?

As Easter people, we know that Jesus has risen and has ascended into heaven. Now it's on us to be the ones to share God's word. Now it's our responsibility to protect and guard God's people. It's our turn to show love to everyone.