



# PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

 We are One in Christ

PNW Conference Devotional • Day Six

## SCRIPTURE

*Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV*

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

## REFLECTION: GENTLENESS

*By Rev. Rich Lang*

It is gentleness that changes our destiny.

The world is a rough and tumble kind of place. The religious world, the world of strong beliefs and a quest for righteousness, is a particularly brutal neighborhood. In the name of love we can so quickly cast out what and who we think are demons. We can so quickly foreclose on friendships. We can so rapidly segregate our us from those we label them.

But it is gentleness that changes the scripts we write. It is gentleness that offers us the new neighborhood that God alone can provide. It is a gentle spirit that opens a future different from the past.

One day a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery was brought before Jesus who was put into position to act as judge. She was guilty and the verdict should have been clear. The accusers already had their rocks in hand ready to execute the righteous judgment. They were ready, in the name of God, in a perplexing, confusing, twisted understanding of love, to strike this woman from head to toe with weapons that would abuse her, torture her and eventually kill her.

*Cont.*

But Jesus, as a skilled artisan in the ways of the Spirit, creatively, courageously, turned aside their wrath and indignation, their holy hunger for righteousness, with a few very simple words, and with a very obvious refusal to segregate sinners from saints.

In such a gentle way not only was the future of that woman assured, but even now, centuries later, so is ours.

## **PRAYER**

May we all learn the artistry of gentleness, and may we all go forth and do likewise.

Amen.