

Unlikely Doors

For those of us who meet for Morning Silence together, I put together something to have on the screen to read while people enter the zoom room and wait for the time to begin. Presently, the readings are taken from “Open the Door (A Journey to the True Self) by Joyce Rupp. Today’s excerpt talks about how our journeys include experiences that seem way too painful or too mundane to serve as sources of truth or doors that can give us beneficial wisdom that leads to transformation. Joyce writes that some of these places seem to divert us rather than bring us to our inner treasure – the true self joined with God’s Spirit.

It made me think of the story of the Prodigal Son. How can hurting your father in a terrible expression of rejection and scorn, then spending everything he gave you in really broken ways, ending up in a pigpen, shamed and defeated be a door that grants wisdom and transformation? And yet it was. Read this portion of the story:

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. Luke 15:13-20

Jesus told this lost and found story (along with a few others) in response to the religious rulers expressing disgust in Him for hanging out with “sinners.”

For this Jewish son, the pig pen became a door of revelation. A place where he saw what he was without his father. He experienced what happens in a tragedy (his being that he was living in a place that experienced a famine). He opened the door of humility and the door of honesty – facing who his father really was and what he was like. He walked through the door of that pigpen and went home, finding more than he could have dreamed he would find.

Think of your worst pigpen so far. The place you can’t imagine could be a door of understanding, wisdom and transformation. Open your heart to believe this is indeed a place where you will discover more about yourself and God. It is part of

the journey, not a diversion or something to try and forget. Open your heart to gifts in each part and let it become a door that leads you back home to your Father.