

Sermon for 6 July 2025 @ Bethesda UMC/Baltimore

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30 (Page 762UMH); Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11,16-20

Sermon:

God works wonders.

We come with no power of our own.

You get nowhere with evil intent.

Jesus demonstrates God's power through his disciples.

This is the good news from Scripture for us gathered here today.

Last Sunday I was told from the back of the room that my sermon was not heard.

How do we put these facts together in a holy way today?

I'll start with the last fact first. If you can't hear, raise your hand. It does no good to say so after the service.

Second, Scripture is clear: God uses all sorts of ways to bring relief to all kinds of people through all sorts of means.

Third, we find this out, and remind ourselves of it, all the time.

Fourth, nothing good comes of ignoring evil, or of confronting it harshly. We are in this world together, and do everything, especially confronting our neighbor's misbehavior, in gentleness and unity, not judging or drawing back.

Finally, Jesus was quite clear: While God works through individuals, it's more often through groups than individuals.

I can repeat all this if you feel it would do good, insisting that these are just my opinions, not God's truth. I am not licensed to preach in a spirit of judgment, but of humility, and opening the door to your loving response.

Otherwise, let us pray God to come close and make us healers of each other, and use both our words and our silence to increase holiness in our time and going forward.

Shall we pray?

