

**“Rock Bottom Turn Around”**  
***Sermon by Guest Preacher***  
**Rev. John Ross**

**Scripture Readings:**

Psalm 139:1-14 (NRSV)

John 6:57-69 (NRSV)

Near the end of the “Rock Bottom Turn Around” sermon, John Ross offers the following excerpts:

**The Serenity Prayer**

*original* by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time,  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did,  
this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that You will make all things right,  
if I surrender to Your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.



**David Brooks**, the journalist, gave this quote in a recent Ted Talk:

“I have a friend who said that when her daughter was born, she realized that she loved her. More than evolution is required.”

**"Nothing** that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope.

Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

*by* Reinhold Niebuhr



**Songs** my sister sings for spiritual strength after the death of her son from cancer. He was 46 years old, a husband and father of two sons.

- *Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul*
- *Jesus is the Rock of My Salvation*
- *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Sweetest Name I Know*
- *Today While the Blossoms Still Cling to the Vine*
- *Great is Thy Faithfulness*



**I am loved, I am loved**

I can risk loving you  
For the One who knows me best  
Loves me most

I am loved, you are loved  
Won't you please take my hand  
We are free to love each other  
We are loved

*"I am Loved"* by The Gaither Trio

**A mother named Grace** reflects on forgiveness after the suicide of her adopted son:

*"Somehow...it's about forgiveness. Somehow in the middle of our deepest grief – perhaps the deepest grief we have ever experienced...it comes down to forgiveness.*

*To grace...to grace.*

*To letting go of ourselves and wanting what is best for another person, no matter what they have done.*

*No matter what they have done.*

*Whether they have done it accidentally, insensitivity, out of weakness or even on purpose.*

*It's about forgiveness. It's Grace.*

*It's the ones closest to us that can hurt the most. Right? Can I forgive them, love them, even if I don't fully understand?*

*Do I forgive Dan?*

*Do I forgive God?*

*Do I forgive you?*

*Do I forgive myself?"*

These are the questions I have asked myself this morning.

Love,

Mom, Aunt Beth, "Grace" Elizabeth



---

The New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.