
PODCAST START:

[intro music]

Brian: Welcome to the Queer Theology podcast!

Fr. Shay: Where each episode, we take a queer look at the week's lectionary readings. We're the cofounders of QueerTheology.com and the hosts for this podcast. I'm Father Shay Kearns —

B: And I'm Brian G. Murphy. Hello there! Today we are taking a look at the lectionary reading for Sunday, July 2nd. We're going to be looking at Matthew 10:40-42. I'm going to read it for you right now, and we'll also put it in the show notes.

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”
[NIV]

Okay, Shay. What comes up for you when you look at this passage?

FS: I really like this passage. I think that in the LGBTQ community and church, there's a lot of conversations about 'the welcoming church.' What does it mean to welcome people? What does it mean for churches that aren't welcoming? We only get a snippet of this passage, right, so we lose some of the larger context, but I like the idea that those who are receiving or welcoming the LGBTQ Christians are the ones who are receiving Jesus and therefore receiving God. I think that that's an important message. So often, as queer Christians, we approach churches as if we need to beg them to let us in, when *really*, the onus is on the church to welcome us as they would welcome Jesus. That's what they're doing. And I also love this idea, that the idea of being prophetic or being a prophet – prophets haven't been well-liked ever. [laughs] But they serve this really important purpose. I think that we just need to remember that those of us who are calling for churches to be more just, who are calling for inclusion – we are doing the work of prophets. And again, it's not on us to beg to have a seat at

the table. Instead, it's on the churches to receive us as prophets and to be willing to listen to what we have to offer. That's where God is found.

B: Yeah, I think that this passage has two important messages for two different audiences. So for – it's sort of just saying what you said in a different way, I suppose – for LGBTQ Christians it's important for us to remember that Jesus wants his followers to be welcomed, that this message was from Jesus to his closest disciples and by extension to all of us. Jesus wants us, and you listening, queer person, to be welcome. That's his vision for the world. Just as you are at reservation, he wants you to be welcomed into places. Like Shay was saying, you don't have to beg, or plead, or feel like you're asking too much. This is your divine right, is welcome. And then the message to straight people, like you were saying Shay – the onus is on you. Jesus makes it very clear what his priorities are. It's important for everyone to be welcomed, but when we're looking at places with people who have been marginalized and excluded from faith, it's your job as Christians to welcome fellow Christians. And that means LGBTQ Christians. What are you going to do to make sure that LGBTQ Christians and potential Christians, potential believers, folks who are interested or curious, feel welcomed in your spaces? Because that's clearly a priority of Jesus here.

[outro music plays]

B: The Queer Theology podcast is just one of many things that we do at QueerTheology.com, which provides resources, community and inspiration for LGBTQ Christians and straight cisgender supporters.

FS: To dive into more of the action, visit us at QueerTheology.com. You can also connect with us online on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram.

B: We'll see you next week.

PODCAST END

Transcript by Taylor Walker