



That's the Gospel!

Sermon for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost, July 2021

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Coeur d'Alene

The Rev. Patton Boyle

[2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21](#)

Disclaimer: Rev. Boyle doesn't write his sermons word-for-word because hearing the message is different than reading a transcript. He gave me his notes and this is what I gleaned from them. I hope my "summary" speaks to you. Deacon Glenda

The Gospel is slippery. We think we know what it is or what it means, but we grasp it, and we lose it, grasp it again, and lose it again. Why is that? Because things are not the way they appear. When you look at a table, a chair, the walls and floors of your house, they appear to be solid, but at the sub-atomic level, those things that appear solid consist mostly of empty space between the nucleus and the orbiting electrons.

Some of us get a message early in life that people don't like us or won't play with us because we are not smart-enough, pretty-enough, strong-enough or good-enough. (Fill in your own not blank-enough.) We get the idea that the key to being liked by others, and loved by God, is being GOOD. And that is how life looks to us. But Jesus' message in the Gospel, the Good News, is that on a spiritual level, that's not that way! The Gospel, the Good News, is that God loves you the way you are; the way God made you. You are unique, with special gifts that are yours and yours alone, gifts given to you by God to share with the world in your own special ways.

In many of Paul's letters (to the Romans, the Galatians and the Ephesians) he writes about "adoption." During Jesus' time, and today in some cultures, biological children could/can be disowned or disinherited by their parents for any number of "offenses" (e.g.; marrying into the "wrong" family, practicing the "wrong" faith, or for criminal behavior). However, as codified in Roman Law, adopted children could NOT be disowned or disinherited by their adoptive parents for ANY reason because they had been chosen! That is also our relationship with God. We are chosen by God; children of God by adoption; a bond that is unbreakable. God's love is unconditional, no matter what. THAT is the way it is! Amen.