

January 16, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

This morning, during my prayer time, I read a passage from the Gospel of Mark, in which Jesus and his disciples picked grain on the Sabbath. Naturally, Jesus' actions upset and offended the Pharisees because it was against Jewish Law to do anything on the Sabbath, and the Pharisees were very committed to following the Law.

As I was reading, I was reminded of something Barbara Brown Taylor, the well-known Episcopal priest and preacher wrote in her book, *Home by Another Way*:

There is something vitally important that most of us who be glad to forget: namely, that the Christ is not only the one who comforts and rescues us. The Christ is also the one who challenges and upsets us, telling us the truth so clearly that we are willing to do appalling things to make him shut up. If you do not believe that, maybe it is because you have not recognized Christ in some of the offensive people God has sent your way.

Every week, if not every day, someone comes our way, who challenges us, upsets us, offends us. And, I wonder: Who is that for you right now? Can you recognize Christ in that person?

See you in church,
Andrew