The Obstacles of Others

A Lenten Study

During Lent this year, my sermons will be exploring the obstacles that Jesus faced in his ministry. These range from people to concepts, and not all of them are things that Jesus overcomes. No life is without its own obstacles, and hearing the obstacles that others face may allow us to be more empathetic, and also think about the challenges that we face in new ways, as well as how we might interpret scripture or faith in new ways.

This study consists of one scripture drawn from the upcoming worship service, an online video less than 20 minutes long, and a couple of questions for reflection. You are welcome to engage with this material in whatever way you would like and at any time. If you are interested in discussing anything that comes out of this process, please email me to indicate your interest and you will be included in the planning of a discussion session, likely on ZOOM, during Holy Week.

We pray that all burdens are lifted, but until that time may we hear one another with love.

--Rev. Scott

Week One

Atrocity Guide

“Japan's Strangest Livestream | Nasubi | A Life of Prizes”

Link: <https://youtu.be/k_o8v88nkKc>

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Atrocity Guide does documentary-style videos about various internet-based people and events, often intersecting with mental health. This video concerns the Japanese comedian Nasubi and his own period of time in the “wilderness,” created for him by the entertainment industry. The purpose of the program was to document living solely on magazine sweepstake prizes. Like Christ, Nasubi endures a horrifying ordeal, but is able to endure fasting and various temptations in order to achieve his goal.

What purpose is there in enduring what might be described as suffering in either Jesus’ case or in Nasubi’s? What are the differences between them?