

Nothing is impossible. WE make things appear impossible. When did we begin to limit ourselves and our imagination?

When we were kids we were raised on stories about

- magic beanstalks,
- a good witch and bad witch, and ruby slippers that took a little girl home
- A wooden boy who became a real boy by learning how to love,
- 4 children and a magic wardrobe that took them to another world.

Imagination was seen as a door to other places, other feelings, where the impossible became possible, and the fake became real.

In my own childhood I could almost hear the trees talking to me as I built a fort in the woods with my friends. They spoke to me of a world that existed just beyond my eyesight. I could imagine stars at night asking me to guess their names. We are all called something—they would say. Open your heart, and we will try and tell you our names.

I may have had a vivid imagination, but I don't think I'm alone in this. Do you remember when everywhere you looked there were mysteries to solve and love was the power that broke every spell?

And then at some point—it stopped. We were discouraged from imaginary pursuits and rewarded for more tangible reality: sports and competition, good grades at school, and extracurricular activities that might help us achieve more.

Suddenly there was so much to do, so many tasks and responsibilities that we put away childish things. The logic of living became more important than the fantasies of our imaginations. Multi-tasking at the speed of light—we didn't even notice the other world around us anymore—the world just beyond our eyesight.

Impossible things no longer happened to us—they were something that got relegated to movies, or the bible. Not real life.

Remember Alice in Wonderland saying:

“There's no use trying; one can't believe impossible things.”

*“I daresay you haven't had much practice,” the White Queen said to her. “When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. **Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.**”*

When did we shut the door on that world?

Perhaps that's the door that Jesus was opening for the disciples in the reading today.

Perhaps he was showing them a way back to a world of possibilities. A world where impossible things not only can, by DO happen. A world that's always been there, but we have learned to ignore it.

It was hard to ignore what Jesus did in the reading today. Things looked dire when 5000 people crowded in on he and the 12— "OMGosh," the disciples were thinking—"What can we do—there's nothing anyone can possibly do! There are too many people here for anyone to feed!"

Picture this: Jesus takes the 5 loaves and 2 fish, and whatever the disciples had brought and started to hand them out. Perhaps people saw this, and realized the Jesus and his followers were sharing *everything they had with them*. What if they then started getting out the things they had brought—remember, this was a day trip for everyone and nobody traveled without food. But Jesus' compassion sparked their imagination. And suddenly everyone was opening up their bags and sharing. You don't think everyone sharing everything they had with each other is a miracle?

Jesus changed everyone in the crowd with his action. He did what was thought to be impossible. He fed everyone.

And before the disciples could even get their heads around THAT—the seas got rough, treacherous, and Jesus came walking to them on the water—and THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. Everyone knows that.

Then he tells them that what they have seen him do, they can do, and more.

And they don't quite believe it. And neither do we.

We don't believe we can feed everyone--so we prepare our own food for our own selves. And we never attempt to walk on water because we are afraid we'll drown.. And those things Jesus did—for us they are impossible.

When we were children ANYTHING was possible. All those stories we acted out in our backyard—all the possibilities we explored-- when did we learn to be so afraid of them?

There is a reason fear exists--fear keeps us safe. Fear keeps change at bay. And fear also tells us many things are just impossible.

6 impossible things.
10 Pentecost

The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry
July 29, 2018

But fear also closes off our minds from hearing Jesus encouraging us to step out fearlessly and try new things, to imagine a world where no one is hungry, where everyone shares everything they have with each other.

Fear is always trying to lure us back. It tells us it's futile to believe 6 impossible things. It tries to shut that book.

But Jesus is here to open that door and hand us that book. He encourages us to hear his song in our souls, and Jesus just laughs at our notion of what can and can't be. Because, as he's showed us, anything is possible.

Amen.