



Intentional Authentic
Evangelism



What do you need?

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Lisa Heckman

Out and about worshiping in our churches these past few weeks, I found the Crossroads and First Racine congregations following a sermon series from [A Sanctified Art](#) called “I’ve been meaning to ask ...” As it would happen, when I was at both churches the same question was asked: “**What do you need?**” That question has stuck with me.

The focus scriptures, Job 2:11-13 and 2 Timothy 4:9-18, show Job and Paul in a time of need. Job’s 3 friends come and just sit with him in silence for 7 days, acknowledging his pain and profound grief. Paul expresses his needs to Timothy, urging him to come to him quickly. Paul’s lonely and has been abandoned and he needs Timothy’s companionship as much as some items he asks Timothy to bring.

In these contexts, the question – “**What do you need?**” – isn’t one we *ask*, but one we *answer*. That places us in the seemingly vulnerable position where someone else wants to help or provide for us. I don’t know about you all, but I’ve been such an independent cuss for so long that I don’t look to someone else to take care of my needs. Our very American society expects us to handle things on our own and to imply that we can’t do so, might just be an insult! It goes against the grain to *need*.

But the truth of the matter is that we are not so independent. On the contrary, we are *inter*dependent. That’s actually a good thing! Lord knows, I have weaknesses and failings. My needs might be met by your strengths. Hopefully my strengths can aid your needs.

“What do you need?” was also a question asked of me by the Welcome Team. While I continue to ponder my answer to them in concrete ways, I invite you and your congregations to consider it for yourselves as well. By expressing our needs, our hopes, our dreams, we allow room for the Holy Spirit to enter in and bridge connections and relationships between us and other people and ministries. As I visit with sessions and congregations, I will be asking that question again. Not expecting that *I* can meet your needs, but knowing that, in voicing them, God can help us together work our way to the future God intends.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa

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