**Loving Certain People, PGIMF, May 7, 2017**Sermon by Esther Hizsa



From **Rowan William’s *Where God Happens: Discovering Christ in one another***“There was a brother at Scetis who had committed a fault. So they called a meeting and invited Abba Moses. He refused to go. The priest sent someone to say to him, ‘They’re all waiting for you.’ So Moses got up and set off; he took a leaky jug and filled it with water and took it with him. The others came out to meet him and said, ‘What is this, Father?’ The old man said to them, ‘My sins run out behind me and I cannot see them, yet here I am coming to sit in judgment on the mistakes of someone else.’ When they heard this they called the meeting off.”

“To assume the right to judge, or to assume that you have arrived at a settled spiritual maturity that entitles you to prescribe confidently at a distance for another’s sickness, is in fact to leave others without the therapy they need for their souls; it is to cut them off from God…. But the plain acknowledgment of your solidarity in need and failure opens a door: it shows that it is possible to live in the truth and to go forward in hope. It is in such a moment that God gives himself through you, …and you open the door for another … you become a place where God happens for somebody else. *You become a place where God happens.*”

***With That Moon Language***—Hafiz (13th C)

*Admit something:
Everyone you see, you say to them,
“Love me.”
Of course you do not do this out loud;
otherwise,
someone would call the cops.
Still though, think about this,
this great pull in us
to connect.
Why not become the one
who lives with a full moon in each eye
that is always saying,
with that sweet moon
language,
what every other eye in this world
is dying to
hear.*

Since then I listened to a talk by James Finley, who wrote *Merton’s Palace to Nowhere.*

James Finley says, “*The thing about moments of spiritual awakening*

*is that you cannot make them happen which is painfully clear...The finite ego by its own finite resources cannot be the means by which an infinite union with the infinite is realized, but what you can do is be faithful to a practice…Lovers cannot make their moments of oceanic oneness happen, but they can freely choose together to assume the stance that offers the least resistance to be overtaken by the oneness they cannot make happen.**”*[*https://youtu.be/4OLSAq1hg5k*](https://youtu.be/4OLSAq1hg5k)

*Peter Heitt and Forgotten Gospel conference* [*http://www.theforgottengospel.com/*](http://www.theforgottengospel.com/)

*For the part about the verbs in “You shall love….”*

[*https://estherhizsa.com/2017/03/24/i-will-love-end-of-story/*](https://estherhizsa.com/2017/03/24/i-will-love-end-of-story/)

In Secrets in the Dark, Frederick Buechner writes:

*The final secret, I think, is this: that the words “You shall love the Lord your God” become in the end less a command than a promise. And the promise is that, yes, on the weary faith and the fragile wings of hope, we will come to love him at last . . . And, loving him, we will come at last to love each other too. . . .”*