



TODAY! Dangerous People - Well, maybe not always dangerous, but movers and shakers. The people who make things happen. We think we know who they are according to the expected systems of power, and the Bible certainly played into the patriarchy of its era. But it also upended it. And if Jesus was a gauge for which threads in the fabric of our world make a difference, then we can assume there is great power where others miss it. All that to say, what are we overlooking today? Around us and within us? Let's check out some Dangerous People in the Bible and start looking for them around us, including in the mirror!

WELCOME!

Life, for adults and kids alike, is most fulfilling when it is woven deeply with others and that mysterious element we often call the third strand, or "God." Learn more about Fabric at www.FabricMpls.com

Is today your first visit? Welcome! Come say hi and choose a gift at the ? table after the gathering.

Got Babies? Hang out with them in The Nest (Media Center) and watch the livestream to stay connected. The Nest is also available for drop off (6mos-3yrs).

WHAT TO EXPECT

We're glad you're here!

Take a seat, get comfortable, have a cup of coffee. It's time to do some weaving!

- Music by Chris Tripolino & the Fabric Band
- Welcome and Say Hi
- Message - Greg Meyer
- Connecting with & supporting Fabric
- More music & closing thoughts

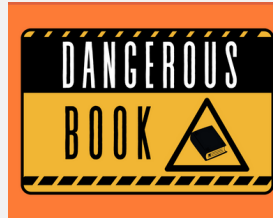
FABRIC KIDS TODAY



Go Beyond with Boldness! Join us this week as we explore the story of Esther and how she took a stand and stood up for others who were being kept from being free.

Start with your family in the Commons and then Pre-K through 5th grade will head to the music room!

NEXT SUNDAY!



Dare to Break Your Limits

If the Bible has hopes, one of them is to infect you with the audacity to believe that what you can't see might be. And what you can't do, might be possible.

Want to hear a message you missed, re-listen, or share it with someone? Go to www.fabricmpls.podbean.com



SPRING GIVING CHALLENGE - THANK YOU! Wow! This incredible community came together to make our Spring Giving Challenge a huge success, beyond what we imagined. Here's what we accomplished: 110 kids, teenagers, and adults contributed \$30,636 in one-time gifts, and increased autogiving by \$2,159/month by starting or adjusting their monthly giving. All three goals surpassed! Thank you!. We are so grateful to be weaving life together.



2ND MILE EVENT - Sunday, May 21, 7-9PM @ the Schmidt Artist Lofts As a person who has been involved and cares about the future of Fabric - you are needed! We will celebrate the Transition Team as they wrap up their work and introduce the Search Team. You are part of the vision we will be casting. And we'll create a plan for using the summer and fall to build momentum to help us be the community we can be and make our transition next year as successful as possible. *RSVP on your communication card or online!*

The Bible is dangerous to your isolation, status quo, and the limits your fear and lack of vision create. It is also dangerous because it can be used to further human agendas that control, oppress, and even cause wars of hate. When we let the Bible be the first kind of danger to us, it can limit the power of the second type of danger.

Why the Bible? Our self strand alone is disconnected; limited in strength, direction, and purpose. Woven with others it can gain in these, but not always for the better as they pull us in line with them, and we tug them towards us. A 3rd strand, particularly one that is strong can pull us all towards life that is more directed, anchored, and aware of our place among all things. *The Bible is a way the voice of the 3rd strand is heard.*

Story 1 - The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: *While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some there said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus interrupted them, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'*
 Mark 14.3-9

Who is **at the center** of this story? THE WOMAN.



Story 2 - Deborah: *At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam, and said to him, 'Yahweh, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."' Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for Yahweh will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.'*
 Judges 4.4-9

Story 3 - Esther: *'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.'* Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, *'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.'*
 Esther 4.13-16

Despite layers of time, language, and culture separating you from the living core of the Bible, the word of life will find its way through. Not because the book is sitting on your shelf, but because it is rumbling in your heart and imagination, chattering with the story of your life and the ones in the news. And some of those rumblings are about these Dangerous People. Three women who changed things: The woman with the Alabaster Jar, Deborah, and Esther. The stories of their lives will be told in remembrance of them. They mattered. You matter. The 3rd Strand does not want that truth forgotten, abandoned, or buried by powers and systems that want it to be all about them.

HOMEWORK: Spend some time with these readings. Esther is 10 pages long but treat it like a short story. Deborah's is just a couple pages, but more a story than a 'Bible reading.' Take time to wonder what these ancient peoples were trying to pass on with these dramatic stories. The story of the woman with the alabaster jar is short. Let your imagination fill in the missing details of what it was like, what people may have been thinking, feeling. Try using **R.O.A.M.** (Read, Observe, Apply, Meditate) to do this.

The readings: Mark 14.1-9 (and a bit further for the bigger picture); Judges chapters 4 & 5 (Deborah); The Book of Esther.