



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021, MORNING MESSAGE

REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

If you want me to know who you are, tell me your zip code. Isn't it interesting that we can know, or think we know something about others based on 5 digits. Take for instance, 48230. That's one of two zip codes in the communities of Grosse Pointe, in this case the oldest of the Pointes – Grosse Pointe Park and the Chandler Park neighborhood in Detroit.

The homes in the 48230 zip code are older and built to house the lower level managers and auto factory employees and staff who worked on large Grosse Pointe estates along the waterfront. There is, however, a section in the 30 area along Lake St. Clair, where there are multi-million dollar homes.

The second zip code, 48236, includes the communities of Grosse Pointe Farms, Woods, and Shores, where the surnames Ford and Dodge, owned and own mansions and acreage. Over the years, some of the elitist distinctions between the 30 and 36 zip codes have vanished or begun to vanish. There persists, however, an awareness of the status conferred by living in the 36 over the 30 zip code.

“Still...thank goodness, we don't live in the 48235 zip code.” (One of Detroit's poorest and deadliest areas.)

Jesus' journey took him to a variety of places. This week's reading in Mark has him in Tyre and Sidon; interacting with a Gentile woman who is identified as a Syro-phoenician; and a deaf man who has an impairment of speech. These stories about Jesus associating with “those people” were shocking to Mark's Jewish audiences. We read these stories and grasp the expansiveness of God's love and mercy for all people.

So why do we make such a big fuss about zip codes?

Blessings,
Edward