MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Jesus ate with those who were sick and those who were different—those who were rejected by the world they lived in. What they all had in common was that they suffered from feeling they did not belong. But Jesus treated them kindly and with dignity.

Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and all of us living with mental health conditions deserve such love. Such love can provide healing of a kind seldom available elsewhere. Such love helps us feel valued. We gain confidence.

The Bible shows that Jesus meets us where we are. We who follow him are called to do the same. We are called to love as he loved, without judging those who are different from us—not in how they look, or act, or speak, or dress. No matter their disabilities.

We are all part of the family of man.

When Jesus lived with us, he helped the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, and he helped Zaccheus the crooked tax collector, and the invalid at the pool called Bethesda. Each of them suffered, mostly in how they felt different from others. But Jesus helped them become the whole people they were intended to be. He helped them find a place in their communities.

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