

Journal Entry # 3

After reading chapter five and six in this Palmer book, I found this reading to be really relatable; especially the information provided in chapter five. For starters, one quote from this book that really stood out to me was when the author explained that “spiritual traditions do not deny the reality of the outer world. They simply claim that we help make that world by projecting our spirit on it, for better or for worse.” (Palmer, P.J. (2000)). This for me was significant, because this is something I truly believe in as a social worker and as a Christian in general. I know that as a social worker, we can’t necessarily talk about our faith with our clients, but I strongly believe that I can share my faith through my actions, how I carry myself, and how I love and serve others. As a social worker I want to project professionalism, servitude, compassion, and ethical behavior, so I can bring about the kind of change that my clients, my organization/agency, and our community need.

Another section of this reading that really stood out to me was the conversation about how a spiritual journey “takes us inward and downward, toward the hardest realities of our lives...” (Palmer, P. J. (2000)). I also appreciated how this conversation also connected with the conversation about the different seasons of our lives. More specifically the conversation about the author's experience during the autumn season. When I was twelve years old, I faced an autumn season of my own when my family discovered that my dad had a brain tumor. Unfortunately three years later, my dad passed away from this tumor. At first, I was “easily fixated on [the] surface appearance” (Palmer, P. J. (2000)). of the situation. The truth of the matter is that I unfortunately had to slowly watch my dad die, and that was hard. But looking back now, I realize that his death was a blessing in disguise because it allowed me to look inward and downward at myself and my spiritual journey and ultimately helped me find and build a

relationship with God for myself. Something that I am forever grateful for because it led me to social work and revealed to me my passion for helping others in need.

References

Palmer, P. J. (2000). Let your life speak: Listening for the voice of vocation (pp. 73–109).
essay, Jossey-Bass.