



April 22, 2020

THE SUPERPOWER OF OMNISCIENCE

There's a fun thought experiment that can be played by the young and the young at heart: if you could choose a single superpower, what would you choose? To fly like Superman? To swing from your own webs like Spider-man? To control the weather like Storm from the X-men?

Sometimes I wonder how it would change us to have the superpower of omniscience?

Specifically, what if we knew everything about the burdens that other people carry? Wouldn't we lean into kindness? Wouldn't we be more forgiving of rough edges – and reach out more easily with love?

What if we saw a neighbor while out for a walk and instantly knew he has a heart disease?

What if we said hello to a grocery worker and felt the anxiety she has for her young children at home?

What if we met someone on a work video conference and immediately knew that she is grieving for her father, who died two months ago?

What if we instantly perceived the struggles of people who have moved to a new part of the world and hardly know anyone; or the neighbors who suffer panic attacks; or the friends who have been abused?

Loving our neighbors would be easier with the superpower of omniscience, I think. Maybe this is why Jesus was so loving to everyone he met, because he knew them all so well already.

For the rest of us, why don't we pray for the wisdom to treat each person as if they are particularly in need of loving care? Just in case.

Peace,

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