

You Can't Say You Can't Play Outline

^{NRS} **Ezra 4:1** When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel, ² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of families and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of King Esar-haddon of Assyria who brought us here." ³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of families in Israel said to them, "You shall have no part with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus of Persia has commanded us." ⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and made them afraid to build, ⁵ and they bribed officials to frustrate their plan throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia. ⁶ In the reign of Ahasuerus, in his accession year, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

1. Vivian Paley
2. Welcoming the stranger home- heart of the Bible
3. But is it realistic? Paley asks this; scripture does, too

"I can play alone," says Lisa. "Why can't Clara play alone?"

Angelo: "I think that's pretty sad. People that is alone, they has water in their eyes."

Lisa: "I'm more sad if someone comes that I don't want to play with."

Paley then intervenes with a question, "Who is sadder, the one who isn't allowed to play, or the one who has to play with someone he or she doesn't want to play with?"

"It's more sadder if you can't play," says Clara.

"The other one is the same sadder," says Lisa.

Angelo: "It has to be Clara, [she is sadder] because she puts herself away in her cubby. And Lisa can still play every time."

4. Text this morning from the restoration- low point

5. Paley begins the rule- the effect not only on Clara but on Lisa
6. Not called to the probable the realistic, but to follow after the one who called us to the improbable, the impossible, trusting that in God- well who knows. You never know- like Lisa if we just try, it might just change our whole lives. **Amen.**