

Wednesday 23rd September

Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, bag, bread or money – not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay, and leave, from there. If you are not welcome, shake the dust of that place from your shoes as you leave.' 2 Peter 3.8-9

A man's action is a picture book of his creed.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thursday 24th September

Now Herod heard about all that had happened, and he was perplexed because some said John had been raised from the dead, or that Elijah or another prophet had appeared. He said, 'I beheaded John, but who is this?' He wanted to meet Jesus. Luke 9.7-9

We mend and renew the world by strengthening inside ourselves what we seek outside ourselves, not by demanding it of others or trying to force it on them.
Richard Rohr

Friday 25th September

Once when Jesus was praying, with only the disciples near, he asked, 'Who do the crowds say that I am? They said, 'John the Baptist, Elijah or another prophet.' He asked, 'And who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.' Luke 9.18-20

Through words we communicate and reveal what we are ... Speaking is a serious matter, and we must weigh our words in the sight of God. *Michel Quoist*

Saturday 26th September

He said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: the Son of Man will be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand; the meaning was concealed from them, and they were afraid to ask him about it. Luke 9.44-45

We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are. *The Talmud*



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Holding the Silence 2020



Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 13th - Saturday 26th September

Collect for Sunday 13th - Saturday 19th September
Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for Sunday 20th - Saturday 26th September
Lord God, defend your church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Daily Readings:

Sunday 13th September

Jesus said, I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words and acts upon them. That one is like a man building a house who laid the foundations on rock; when the flood rose, the river burst against the house, but could not shake it because it was well built. But one who hears and does not act is like a house built without foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house. Luke 6.47-49

The purpose of all major religious traditions is not to construct big temples on the outside, but to create temples of goodness and compassion in our hearts.
The Dalai Lama

Monday 14th September

No-one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. John 3.13-16

A Christian doesn't think that God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because he loves us. *C.S. Lewis*

Tuesday 15th September

He went to Nain with his disciples and a large crowd. As he approached the town a man who had died was carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. When Jesus saw her he had compassion for her and said, 'Do not weep' Then he touched the bier and the bearers stopped. He said, 'Young man, I say to you rise!' The dead man sat up, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them, and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet is among us!'

Luke 7.11-17

Compassion is ... the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy for you too. *Frederick Buechner*

Wednesday 16th September

The people of this generation are like children sitting in the market-place calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance. We wailed and you did not weep.' For John came fasting, and you say, 'He has a demon,' and the Son of Man came eating and drinking and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard.' *Luke 7.31-34*

Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best. *Henry Van Dyke*

Thursday 17th September

Soon afterwards he went through cities and villages proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, Joanna the wife of Herod's steward, Susanna and many others, who provided for them from their own resources. *Luke 8.1-3*

Never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners. I find that comforting. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

Friday 18th September

Jesus said, 'the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, and be killed and on the third day be raised. If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves?'

Luke 9.22-25

Some people ask what kind of a religion it is that chooses an instrument of torture for its symbol ... The answer is: one that takes the existence of suffering seriously. *Francis Spufford*

Saturday 19th September

As Jesus was leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road when he heard Jesus coming, he shouted out, 'Jesus, have mercy on me!' The crowd urged him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder. Jesus called for him, and he sprang up. Jesus asked, 'What do you want me to do?' Bartimaeus said, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said, 'Go. Your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way. *Mark 10.46-52*

We accord persons dignity by assuming they are good, that they share the human qualities we ascribe to ourselves. *Nelson Mandela*

Sunday 20th September

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' He got up and followed him. At dinner many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus, and the Pharisees asked his disciples why Jesus ate with them. Jesus answered, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners.' *Matthew 9.9-13*

Repentance means turning toward other human beings, our own flesh and blood, whenever they're oppressed, hungry, or imprisoned; it means acting with compassion instead of indifference. *Sara Miles*

Monday 21st September

No one after lighting a lamp hides it in a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that all may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not come to light. Pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they have will be taken away. *Luke 8.16-18*

We've lost the plot if we use religion to escape from difficult realities instead of as a place where difficult realities are given meaning. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

Tuesday 22nd September

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. He was told, 'Your mother and brothers are outside, wanting to see you.' But he said, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.' *Luke 8.19-21*

There is only one courage, and that is the courage to go on dying to the past, not to collect it, not to accumulate it, not to cling to it. We all cling to the past, and because we do we become unavailable to the present. *Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh*