

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

ENCOUNTERING GOD ON LIGHT RAIL

BEING WITH THE LEAST OF THESE

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:31–46

FROM THE SERMON

“Any spirituality that consistently neglects the needs of the poor is a defective spirituality. Any spiritual discipline that ignores or forgets or neglects the forgotten runs the risk of spiritual self deception. Any spirituality that misses the poor is inadequate, deficient, and needs correction. It is not enough to weep. We must act. The path of Christian discipleship calls us to engagement with the poor but the danger is that the American church is constantly being tempted by a narcissistic gospel that results in personal and congregational well-being, but ignores the poor.”

Roberta Hestenes

Our relationship with the poor is not to be organized as a program at our local church. Instead in everyday life we are to come alongside, be present to the poor in a relationship of family. In this relational space something truly amazing happens. Jesus becomes especially present. Antagonisms become unwound. Resources are shared back and forth. Healing takes place. Relationships are restored. And a new world is born. This is the discipline of being with “the least of these” that is to characterize our everyday life as Christians, as Christ’s church.

David Fitch, *Faithful Presence*

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

Be present to the least of these and act for their good.

PREVIOUS PRACTICES

Week 1 In the everyday life experiences, “be captured by the present moment.” Pay attention to what is actually happening right where you are, and whisper gratitude to God for the many gifts you observe.

Week 2 Be present to those around you with confidence that God is up to something—and find a way to demonstrate His love.

Week 3 In the everyday life experiences, “be captured by the present moment.” Pay attention to what is actually happening right where you are, and whisper gratitude to God for the many gifts you observe.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THIS SERIES

TESTING THE WATERS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis

Gilead: A Novel, Marilynne Robinson

Letters by a Modern Mystic, Frank C. Laubach

The Sacred Journey: A Memoir of Early Days,
Frederick Buechner

An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith, Barbara
Brown Taylor

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life,
Tish Harrison Warren

DIVING DEEPER

*The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence
of God*, Ronald Rolheiser

*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational
Relationship with God*, Dallas Willard

How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor,
James K. A. Smith