

Reader 2 for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

✦ Lasallian Litany

Final Thought: Rev. Allan Boesak

We will go before God to be judged, and God will ask us, “Where are your wounds?” And we will say, “We have no wounds.” And God will ask, “Was there nothing worth fighting for?”

(Arranged by Brother Tim Coldwell)

Stories of Discipleship

✦ Story I: One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a Jewish peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where he worked with his father in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never had a family or owned a home. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place he was born. He never wrote a book or held an office. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends deserted him. He was turned over to his enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had—his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure for much of humanity. All the enemies that ever marched and all the navies

that ever sailed and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of humanity upon this earth as powerfully as the “one solitary life.”

☆ Story II: The Prince

There was once a handsome prince who had a crooked back. This defect kept him from being the kind of prince he was meant to be. One day the king had the best sculptor in his kingdom make a statue out of the prince. It portrayed him, however, not with a crooked back but with a straight back. The king placed the statue in the prince’s private garden. When the prince saw it, his heart beat faster. Months passed and the people began to say, “The Prince’s back doesn’t seem as crooked as it once was.” When the prince heard this, his heart beat even faster. Now the prince began to spend hours studying the statue and meditating on it. Then one day a remarkable thing happened. The prince found himself standing as straight as the statue!

This parable is about you and me. We too are born to be a prince. But a defect kept us from being the kind of person we were meant to be. Then one day God the Father sent his only son, Jesus, into the world to show us what we were meant to be. Jesus stands spiritually straight, and when we look at him, our hearts beat faster.

☆ Examination of Conscience

Let us take stock of ourselves by asking the tough questions and giving honest answers:

Am I more accepting of others than I was one month ago?

Am I more honest with others than I was one month ago?

Am I more charitable and giving than I was one month ago?

☆ Story III: The Call

Reader 1 He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them:

Reader 2 Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

Reader 1 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.

Reader 2 What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

Reader 1 Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me;