

CROSSROADS *followHim* SESSION I—APRIL 2017

Sometimes we can consider something that isn't from scripture at followHim because it teaches us what Jesus asks of us anyway. This reading, which we will use for session I in April is from an author named Ragan Satterfield and it is about 'living poorer' or in other words, taking only what we need from the earth and the world.

- Where do you see Jesus' teaching in this reading?
- How do you think the author is asking us to 'live poorer'...does that only mean stuff? Money? What else might he be suggesting we look at.
- What is in this reading that helps us during Lent?

Learning to live poorer---Ragan Satterfield

This is the time of turning—the forty days of fasting and penance that are meant to bend us again toward the light, to tune our souls to God. It is a time when we welcome silence into our lives so that we can stop from the rush and listen to the God who arrives not in the roar but the quiet.

“We all live by robbing nature, but our standard of living demands that the robbery shall continue.” These words from the farmer and writer Wendell Berry ring in me like the words of John the Baptist: repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.

I'm as much a participant in this theft as anyone else. I drive too much, buy too much, use too much. I'm addicted to convenience and choice, I'm in the thrall of that old vice luxury. And yet, like so many others I want peace, I want wholeness, I want the creation to be full and alive. This is the disjunction we call sin—the disordered desires Augustine saw as the roots of our disease. To get straight we must change our ways and our wants.

“If we want to be at peace,” Berry writes, “we will have to waste less, spend less, use less, want less, need less.” Our lives must be disciplined into the proper scale of the human. Such change of heart and desire cannot be accomplished simply by a moment's decision. It requires the grace and effort of conversion, the turning and tuning that this penitential season is all about.

“We must achieve the character and acquire the skills to live much poorer than we do.”

Wendell Berry

PSALM 31: 3-5

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me. Take me out of the net that is hidden for me for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit, you have redeemed me O Lord, faithful God.

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John 20:1-10 New Revised Standard Version

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'^[a]

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;^[b]
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.