

# **Remember: You are doing this to Me and thus, to Mother Earth!**

## **Luke 14: 25-33**

**Rev. Mario Seth Morales, Interim Associate Pastor**

Wisdom is more radical than knowledge! Jesus's teaching in this passage, according to the author of the Gospel of Luke, is signaling that if anyone wants to follow the way of building the beloved community that transforms evil into blessings for the common good, one needs to be willing to drink from the wells of wisdom. Understanding that wisdom is more radical than knowledge.

In Jesus's time, to acquire knowledge, the disciples must choose their teachers, taking into consideration that as a disciple, one must contribute to sustaining the teacher's comfortable lifestyle for an extended period of at least 15 years, a period needed for a disciple to acquire the necessary knowledge to become a teacher.

The wisdom of the liberation of life. Jesus's way is different from the very beginning because it is the teacher who calls his disciples and not because they had the means to pay him but because he lives among them and is identifying those who thirst for wisdom. Jesus's disciples were interested in knowledge and felt privileged now that they were chosen to be disciples.

They do not know that Jesus is interested in them becoming wise to survive and transform the evil of domination that oppresses, abuses, and exploits the masses of their world. The mighty Roman Empire also trapped the family, education, and religious systems of their time. Jesus knew that as it is today, there is a silent seduction in the power and domination that money can buy.

Jesus's wisdom focuses on finding an effective solution to building the beloved community with a universal radical principle: Do not do to others what you do not want to be done to you. Practicing this simple but radical universal principle, whether here or in China, will help develop radical changes in us towards love, compassion, and cooperation that would benefit the community and us at large.

Jesus is genuinely proclaiming life abundant, but one must learn the wisdom of treating others as one wants to be treated, which is even more difficult because Jesus' way includes loving the enemy. Still, if we pay close attention to His time as it is in our time, it is the only way to avoid more significant destruction and a possibility to allow the liberation of life. Clearly, Jesus's way of dealing with the enemy is not a way to be silent, nor is it a call to violence. His way is the alternative way, which offers survival to the diverse community, which in our days must include the rest of creation and Mother Earth.

Jesus recognizes that if his disciples accommodate the knowledge of their time, they will end up either oppressors in the religious systems or oppressors aligned with the powers seeking the power that money can buy. Jesus is aware that wisdom is more radical than knowledge. His

disciples must learn not to get stuck in pointless political or religious argumentations and competition produced by the lack of understanding from those who were so close and far from them. Jesus is not saying abandon them; no, Jesus is saying we do not follow them. Instead, follow the principle that in times of domination and unjust oppression offers a way of salvation, the path towards the liberation of life.

Why do serving the poor, feeding the hungry, educating the children, picking up the trash in our streets, driving less, eating plants, and conserving water indeed become radical acts that require a radical commitment?

The answer relates to the wisdom in the principle that produces love, compassion, and cooperation in us. Simply said, when family members, political representatives, teachers, religious leaders, and any leader aligns with the powers that be because it is comfortable for a few, including them, then we must resist and transform our society by changing ourselves by becoming wise and applying the universal principle of treating others as we want to be treated ourselves as the fundamental building block of our communities. Following Jesus's wisdom, we will awake to a plethora of opportunities that will unfold in front of us in the daily bases to transform the injustices found in any human organization including family, school, economics, education, and religion.

Jesus is saying, there is no time to waste. One must take radical steps and be willing to put the cause of life for the majority first. In Jesus' time, the call was to establish small communities that would be willing to resist the Empire by taking even small radical steps towards survival and avoiding being crushed that the love for power and domination can inflict not only individually but also collectively: A life of love, compassion, and cooperation, where loving your enemy, living simply to be free, recognizing that your neighbor is also the rest of creation, and practicing small but radical actions of service to the least of these will give us purpose, there is so much to do, so much to contribute even with small but radical wise choices. Indeed, we are called to follow the way of Jesus and commit to a mission of the liberation of life.

The great Mahatma Gandhi is an excellent example of Following the way of Jesus, the alternative route of wisdom. He clearly said he admired the teaching of Jesus, and it seems like he found inspiration in Jesus's Wisdom that complemented his own cultural wisdom by saving millions of lives with his peaceful approach to domination and oppression. In turn, Gandhi influenced Martin Luther King, who transformed our perspective of racism around the world into a global awakening. Their mission sought to save significant numbers of people from violent destruction, and they, like Jesus, were willing to give their lives for that cause. They both have changed how we understand the injustice of racism, domination, and oppression in our days.

Aligning with the Divine is aligning with life. There is Life in Jesus. There is life in his wisdom. Taking small but radical steps towards the liberation of life today, in a moment like this when life as we know it is at significant risk, we must not lose hope. We must seek to practice the wisdom

found in the universal principle that births the liberation of life: Do to others what you want to be done to you. This produces small radical changes; we become more loving, compassionate, and cooperative.

In my last sermon, I invited you to consider the power of small communities and the impact we can create when we organize as we are learning during this Pandemic, we can organize communities of communities of communities by forming small groups, using technology, we are entering new territories, we are becoming, transforming, we are opening opportunities for the GOOD NEWS for all, we will welcome everyone, and allow the spirit of love compassion and cooperation to empower us to foster transformation.

In conclusion:

Can you see what Jesus's wisdom in the principle of doing to others as you want to be done to you is doing in our days?

When it comes to the poor, we know the power in the soil. Who is going to teach the least of these about sustainability?

When it comes to educating children, who will teach them wisdom?

Who is going to do it when it comes to keeping the street where we live free of trash?

When it comes to cutting on driving, who is going to do it?

Who is going to eat more plants and only once-a-week beef?

When it comes to taking five minutes showers and conserving water, who is going to do it?

Friends: If it is not us, then who? If it is not now, then when?

Perhaps it will take a long time to continue the fight with authorities in school boards, city halls, Congress, Senate, NATO, and the world bank. We know how slow those processes go and must continue to go. But today, we are invited to practice radical acts that require a radical commitment. It is up to us, to our small communities of love, to have compassion and cooperation, to think creatively about self-sustainability, living simple, develop affordable housing, and an alternative to GDP. There is hope. We are the ones who carry that light.

Mather Fox, in His Book Wisdom in a time of Pandemic, says:

"One way to talk about wisdom as distinct from knowledge is proposed by the Sufi mystic Rumi who tells us: "Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today, I am wise, so I am changing myself."

Wisdom is more radical than knowledge. Remember, Jesus also said:" When you do good deeds to the least of these, you are doing this to Me – today we also know that the least of these also includes Mother Earth!

Imagine what would happen if all of us would take small radical steps toward the liberation of life! Not tomorrow, NO! Today!

The Word of God of All!

Glory be to God!

Amen.

-----

## Notes:

Be inspired by exploring the following consulted materials:

Evan Steiner and Philip Clayton - *The New Possible: Visions of Our World beyond Crisis* Kindle edition – Edited by: Evan Steiner, Philip Clayton, Kelli M. Archie, Jonah Sachs, & 1 more

Fox, Matthew. *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic—And Beyond: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic-And beyond*. iUniverse. Kindle Edition.

Also:

<https://youtu.be/akRy3vEZqWE>

<https://www.rebootthefuture.org/>