

# **There is no planet B: You are like Sunshine on a rainy day**

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

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### **Introduction**

Jesus invites his disciples to consider the importance of the wisdom of equality: Contrary to the evil of domination based on superiority, the beloved community must be constructed based on the concept that we all are equal because we all come from the same source of life.

The wisdom of equality reminds us that to build a beloved community, we must include everyone, including our planet, we all share the same source of life. Thus, everyone must be welcomed as they are.

What does it mean to awake to this aspect of the teachings of the wisdom of Jesus, realizing that there is no planet B? How can we continue to be like sunshine on a rainy day in our SFB community today?

From my perspective, the passage allows us to venture Jesus' wisdom, taking into consideration the political context of their time:

The evil of domination practiced by the Roman Empire then and the Empire now, produces profound social inequalities. In the circles of empire, an individual must look a certain way and have the economic power to access the front seats. Jesus is aware of the humiliation of displacement when the powerful create rules to systemically remove what are considered disposable objects and are never part of the community of subjects due to their physical appearance or how much they have or both. If one does not fit their profile, systematically and legally, one will be displaced.

In fact, one of the most unjust doctrines of domination is that we all are equal only when we are born because we are at that stage of development without any possessions. According to this unjust doctrine, when we begin to advance in our human development, those who are "more intelligent" will take advantage of the opportunities and begin to make money, multiply it, and accumulate wealth beyond their natural needs.

This doctrine of domination assumes that everyone has the same opportunities in life. This unjust doctrine is widely accepted in society, and even the poor believe it without questioning why it is that only a tiny percentage of individuals own most of the wealth

in the world. Of course, the country where I come from, when one questions the domination of Empire, one disappears even on daylight.

Jesus' wisdom as have said before is a call to be sober and seek to have enough so that others can also have a share. Domination aims to have more to have power over others. Jesus Wisdom is a call to community.

### **Consider equality instead of the pursuit of power.**

Jesus' wisdom allows us to affirm that the pursuit of power will always lead to inequality and, thus, to the birthing of all the ISM-s. I do not need to name the list of all the ISM-s here today; we know them well, and we are aware that all the ISM-s are based on domination and thus looking down on others, which we can very well recognize as the objectivation of life.

We are very much aware that all the ISM-s do not promote fairness and equity across many aspects of society. We know that looking down on others promotes economic inequality and reduces educational and workplace opportunities. Thus, it endangers the safety and security of individuals and communities.

Jesus' wisdom clearly teaches that the pursuit of power will not allow us to be able to build the beloved community. The pursuit of power will affect our ability to be compassionate.

We will not be able to cooperate with others; instead, we will constantly be competing, willing to tear down; Jesus knows that community life thrives when we are compassionate and cooperative for the common good.

So, Jesus tells his disciples to be wise, learn this lesson, not pursue power, and avoid competition. Domination dehumanizes the opponent. Soon, you will think you are surrounded by objects, not by living subjects.

The evil of the power of domination benefits a few, the majority become disposable objects who no one wants to have around. The rest are objects that can be used, exploited, and never subjects. For the evil of domination people, nature and Mother Earth, are objects that can be converted into cash, justifiable so that the GDP continues to grow. It is not wise to think that we can increase the economy, like the resources on this planet are infinite. That is why it is easy to say money talks.

So, What does it mean to awake to this aspect of the teachings of the wisdom of Jesus, realizing that there is no planet B?

Let us look at one example that hopefully can help us see the consequences of objectivating nature.

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Domination affirms that the powerful few are surrounded by objects, not by subjects. If we continue to accept that fallacy, we will continue growing the economy, exploiting the limited resources of this planet, our Mother Earth.

Did you know that the GDP would not consider a living tree valuable? All the living trees that provide oxygen and promote life have no GDP value. For an ever-growing economy, a tree only becomes useful when it is killed, cut down, or converted to wood, paper, or other products.

The wisdom of equality, when extended to all creation, helps us become aware that we cannot continue living the same way anymore because there is no planet B. Wisdom is more radical than knowledge, where even small but radical changes will contribute to the healing of our common home. We must pursue compassion and cooperation.

We are surrounded by billions of communities of subjects. We are not surrounded by objects. They all are subjects because we all come from the same source of life. That is why Jesus says to make radical changes, turn on the light, and extend an invitation to all those society does not want to invite to have a place at the table.

### **You are like sunshine on a rainy day.**

A lot of people keep telling me about the rainy days in Seattle. It seems to me, that the communities in Seattle understand the joy of sunshine. Especially the joy of a bit of sunshine in a season of rain and gloom.

The experience of feelings of being poor and that includes poor in spirit. It feels like a season of rain and gloom without stopping. Those moments in life, when one experience rejections, disconnect, displacement, humiliation, abuse, disrespect, feeling unwanted, unaccepted, ostracized, feeling like an outsider, disenfranchised, forgotten, dehumanized, objectified. Those are the moments in life when the heart is looking for rays of sunshine.

When life had become like the rainy season, we know we do not have it all together, we recognize we are in a mess.

However, it is in that chaos, that we can raise to a consciousness where we can see that we are surrounded by SUBJECTS who like sunshine in a rainy season would lead us to new experiences of profound sense of self compassion and the willingness to cooperate in self transformation.

After we organize our life, it is natural to feel inspired to organize in small groups, to open space in our tables for those who are somehow experiencing long periods of rainy days and gloom. Our compassionate efforts will open the possibility for many to open the gates so the rivers of healing and transformation can flow.

Jesus wisdom of equality, is signaling to those who follow him, that we must invite to our tables the ones who are never invited, the ones who will not be able to pay us back.

Arriving at such awareness, we realize that the source of life is the same for all; we know we are made of the same original stuff with feelings from the bottom up. That life is about transforming the injustices of the ISM-s and promoting abundant life.

Anyone arriving at such awareness from any of the many entry doors, including being an oppressor, will become a wounded healer, a person who integrates compassion and cooperation in the daily experience of life.

Anyone arriving at this awareness of consciousness would become so contracultural that they will start throwing parties for the poor because there is nothing more rewarding than looking at the eyes of those who are treated as objects by the social system when we set up a table with the best food we can offer, open our arms and say to them you are not an object, you are indeed a subject you are welcome here, just as you are and in a moment like this.

At that moment, we become like sunshine on a rainy day! We become the feet, the arms, the heart of the love of God. We become the hands and feet that God needs in our world today. We become like Jesus. That is what it means to follow Jesus!

#### **ALLOW ME TO SHARE A STORY FROM THE MISSION FIELD**

***I will never forget the eyes of so many children ministered by the volunteers of the House of Hope in Cochabamba, Bolivia. We used to serve them homemade delicious chocolate creamy soy milk. By the time we had done all the group, some had already***

*drunk their first glass of milk. The volunteers will ask: Who wants to have seconds?; Who wants more milk?; In one of my last visits, I remember in particular the eyes of a kid, perhaps eight years old, and with his voice charged with the enthusiasm that produces the sunshine on a rainy day, would say: Me, me, me please, I want you to re-fill my plastic cup to the top. I remember, how the eyes of the volunteer and the kid crossing for a moment, while he gets his plastic cup filled up to the top, his eyes spark of joy! For him, I imagine, this lady volunteer serving more milk was like a ray of sunshine on a rainy day.*

### **In Conclusion:**

From my perspective, these are the images that Jesus had in mind when he shared the wisdom of equality with his disciples. Those eyes full of life are the images of what the beloved community of Jesus is all about. And you, you, you, and you, and me, WE ARE like sunshine on a rainy day. Let us not forget that there is no planet B.

The Word of God of All! Glory be to God! Amen.

### **Notes:**

Be inspired by exploring the following consulted materials:

If you are asking what to do, consider the wisdom of community presented by Paul Hawken in his book *Regeneration* he says:

“The majority of the people in the world understand there is a crisis. The bridge to ending the climate crisis is the awakening of that majority to take action” (pgs.240 -254)

On the idea of equality by returning to our common source of life, consider the following meditation by Mathew Fox from March 7, 2020:

<https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/2020/03/07/eckhart-on-the-equality-of-being/>

Music video: Sunshine on a rainy day

<https://youtu.be/Q4xiBI3Acik>

Video living with Sumatra Elephants (from Mathew Fox Meditation above)

<https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/dffb7cf9-5ced-4569-9f75-b3f5aada7b96/living-with-sumatran-elephants-earth-a-new-wild/#.XmLFnxdwGNo>