

P E A C E M A K E R



WEEK OF AUGUST 28TH

“The most amazing fact about Jesus, unlike almost any other religious founder, is that he found God in disorder and imperfection—and told us that we must do the same or we would never be content on this earth.”

— Richard Rohr

The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See

READ: MATTHEW 5:1-12

- What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?
- Draw about it or write a response to God about it below.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Consider the quote at the top of the page from Richard Rohr. Can you recall a time in your life when you found God in the midst of chaos instead of in times of presumed peace? Write about it below, including any insight on how your lived experienced shifted prior assumptions or beliefs about the nature of peace.

- In today's passage, Jesus delivers a series of paradoxical statements about who is *makarios* or, truly well-off, in God's economy, and who isn't. As we listen along we learn that to be a recipient of this other sort of wellness is to be a living contradiction to the wisdom of the world and the embodiment of something wholly other and even opposed to what would be most commonly expected.

Now, consider this in regards to peacemaking

In what way, if any, does this feel right to you?

In what way, if any, do you feel resistant to it?

- The original greek *eirēnopoioi* was translated to the English *peace* in this passage, and this word describes the bringing together or joining of parts to make something whole as a one might in the writing of poetry. In the commentary offered in *Feasting on the Gospels*, Larry Bouchard adds, "in poetry metaphors atone, they bring distant things together in harmony and dissonance. Some chaos remaining in metaphor, inviting still more creation and improvisation." What do you think or feel in response to this word?



PRACTICE:

What is one area where you long for peace?

Begin by listing areas where you notice chaos, confusion, disorder, discord, or unrest. This may be internal or external, nearby or distant.

Reflect back on your list and consider what the fragmented or disparate pieces might be for each. What is lacking in wholeness and in need of being put back together? Where is there room for harmony, even in light of continued dissonance?

Write a prayer asking God for help in reconnecting these fragmented parts or draw something that reflects your restoration. Put the prayer or drawing somewhere visible where you can reflect on it often throughout the week

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family."

Matthew 5:9 MSG