

There is nothing we can do but love

by Dorothy Day

What we would like to do is change the world — make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute — the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words — we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend.



Reflecting on Last Week's Question

Where have you seen God?

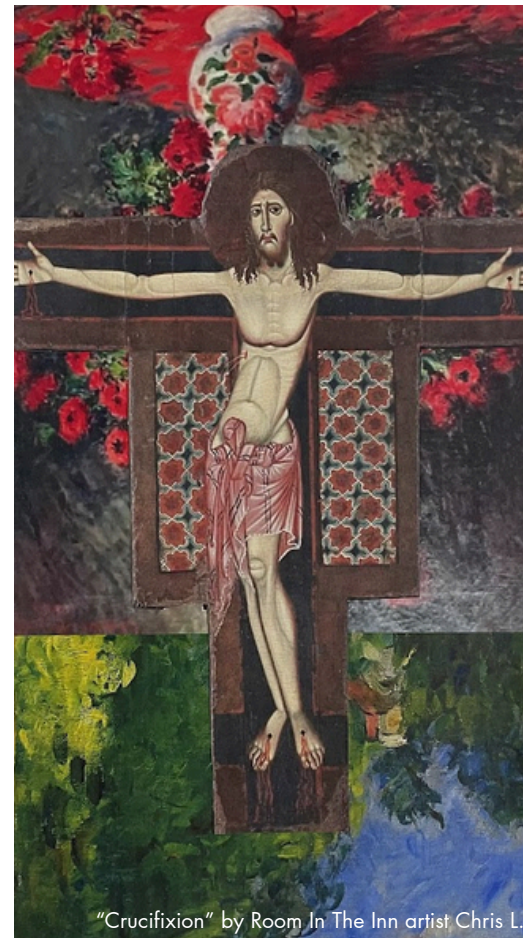
doctors and nurses	my grandbaby	in serving every day
when I'm least expecting it	in the hospital	in random "God winks" through the day
during meditation	Room In The Inn	when i wake up every day



Where Brokenness Meets Blessing

LENT WITH THE ROOM IN THE INN COMMUNITY

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.



"Crucifixion" by Room In The Inn artist Chris L.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MATTHEW 5:9-12



He Saw the Crowd

Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount did not arrive out of thin air, detached from real life. In Matthew’s Gospel, it is important to look at the words that come before the poetry of the Beatitudes. “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain...And he began to speak.” (Matt. 5:1-2)

He saw the crowds.

And what kind of crowd did he see? They were sick, afflicted with pain, possessed by demons, had epilepsy, and suffered paralysis. (Matt. 4:25-35) They were subjects of an outside force, the Roman Empire, which promised “peace,” but did so through dominance, excessive taxation, and violent force.

Those of us who have been at Room In The Inn’s Campus on a frigid winter day have caught a glimpse of a crowd like this—hundreds of people with needs of every kind and seemingly everything in the world working against them. Where is peace to be found amid a crowd like this?

Some see peace as the absence of conflict. Others, like Ceasar, claim peace can be secured through control, by silencing opposition and maintaining order at any cost.

But the peace Jesus speaks of is different. It is direct, nonviolent engagement with conflict. It upsets the status quo and can lead to trouble. It is the kind of action he showed during the final week of his life, making mockery of the empire by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a warhorse, turning over the tables of those who practiced corruption in the Temple, and being willing to endure the shame and suffering of the cross.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,” he says, not because they keep things comfortable, but because they are willing to risk comfort for the sake of healing. They step into the tension, into the crowd, into the places where pain runs deep, trusting that even there, God is at work making things new.

Putting Love In Action

Slow Down and Notice

During your day, keep an eye out for a person who might seem tired, alone, stressed, or simply quiet in the background. Offer one small act of kindness to them. This could be a warm greeting, a listening ear, a short note, or a simple check-in.

Pause long enough to really see someone, just as Jesus saw the crowd. Think about how this small act of attention might lead to more acts of peacemaking in your life.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

MOTHER TERESA



Question of the Week

Who is a peacemaker you admire? Why?

Join Us for Holy Week

HOLY THURSDAY
Apr. 2 at 10:30
Worship with
Communion & Foot
Clinic
Classroom A

GOOD FRIDAY
Apr. 3 at 10:30
Leaf Making for
our Memorial
Trees
Art Room

EASTER
Apr. 5 at 7am
Our Annual
Sunrise Service
and Brunch
Classroom A/B/C

Each of these events is held at Room In The Inn, 705 Drexel Street, Nashville, TN 37203