

Daily Meditation 06-03-24

The DM Survey & Modest Changes to the DM Entering into its Sixth Year

Good morning.

We continue our meditations with Dorothee Soelle, and her "Creed for the 21st Century."

Her Creed is about beholding, and acting -- and not just spinning dogmas. And to behold suffering. And what we can do about it. Seems pretty close to Jesus' teaching to me.

I suppose that in the Nicene Creed, the wars and invasions, genocide committed in its name over the centuries, genocide that Pope Francis had traveled thousands of miles to apologize for in Canada, two years ago -- Dorothee Soelle is reminding us of the need to behold the suffering of the world, along with the beauty of existence. It is a simple Creed that I printed in the spirit of Dorothee Soelle:

I believe in our powers to behold, to appreciate and to love, wonder, and trust. The beauty that is all about us in creation. I believe in the power of silence and letting go, and sinking, and letting be, and enduring suffering and loss and grief: what they teach us about others, and ourselves, and our need for compassion, and our powers for compassion.

I believe in our powers to behold suffering and its causes, to look evil in the face, unvarnished, and not fall into denial, or mad conspiratorial theories, or projection -- and you do something about it.

I believe in our powers of birthing and creativity, and how what we birth that is good, and true, and beautiful, and healing, is nothing less than the Christ all over again. I believe in our powers to work together, to bring compassion alive, bring justice alive, and healing. And with it, the joy and celebration of life that overcomes the injustice and sorrow that humans so readily inflict on one another.

I believe you can do this in the name of Christ, or in the name of Buddha, or in the name of Salaam, the image of God, found in all beings, and in the sacredness of all our relations.

So faith as beholding, versus faith as bad dogmatizing, and excommunicating, and waging religious wars of conquest and more. This faith plays itself out in the Via Positiva, the Via Negativa, the Via Creativa, and the Via Transformativa.

And, as we said in this morning's meditation, citing Meister Eckhart, to elaborate on it a little, he's saying that if you are just, your ways will be just. If you are compassionate, your ways will be compassionate. He says "Works do not sanctify us, but we sanctify our works. Holiness is based on being," he says, "not on a single action. So if you wish to explore the goodness of actions, explore first the nature of the ground of the works. If you are joyful, your ways will be joyful. If you are just, your ways will be just."

Thank you. We'll see you next week.