

**The Stations of the Cross and the Beatitudes, Week 4 2021<sup>i</sup>**  
**Monday Mar 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Beatitude Four:** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”

It’s hard to hunger and thirst for particular items of food or drink unless you can imagine what they taste like. We’ve all had the experience of being told that some favourite food was about to be served, and before even seeing it or smelling it, our mouths begin to water.

So it is with the kingdom of heaven on earth. If we can imagine it, we can begin to taste it even before it is fully present before us. If we can taste it in our minds’ eyes, if we can salivate for it in our minds’ mouths, we will seek it great care and perseverance.

If we can work up a strong enough hunger and thirst for justice, we’ll pursue it past all obstacles. Martin Luther King was hungry for liberation from racist segregation. Cesar Chavez was thirsty for decent wages and working conditions for farmworkers. They stayed hungry and thirsty long enough to change the world.



**Station Seven:** Jesus falls a second time on his way to Golgotha.

*The cross is heavier and darker than the first time. The fall more jarring. There is a jostling crowd in the background, a pushing and shoving between angry men and soldiers.*

Imagine the stone on which Jesus tripped as he walked to his crucifixion. Imagine what blocks your path, what gets in the way of wholeness and fulfilment for you. Jesus said (Matthew 21: 42-44) that the stone of stumbling would become the cornerstone, the most important stone in the building of the new Kingdom of Heaven. As we are all one in the Christ, Jesus’ words offer the promise that our stones of stumbling can be used to build a new life on the other side of the cross.



**Station Eight:** Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

*Jesus turns to the weeping women that follow him on the road to Calvary with an expression of concern and sadness. Here they are depicted as refugee women of Darfur, Sudan hemmed in by a white thorn fence.*

Jesus met a group of women of Jerusalem who were weeping for him. He told them they should instead be weeping for their city. He predicted its destruction, which happened in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem after a massive Jewish revolt. Jesus seemed to see his own story, his own suffering, in a wider context. He had a sense of history and of his place in it. Something much larger than the fate of his life was at stake.

**“Splendid are those who have a passion for justice; they will get things done.”**

*Biblical justice is not what we might think and bears little resemblance to our criminal justice system today. Biblical justice is positive, the act of reordering the world so that all have a fair share. Such a concept is a bold and at times frightening affront to the ways of the world as it currently exists.*

**Questions:**

- i) How are you hungry and thirsty for justice?
  - a. What positive changes in society make you salivate?
- ii) How does your spirituality, your relationship with God, affect your striving for the common good?
- iii) How can you transform this thing that knocks you down into something that builds you up?
- iv) What spiritual “calluses” do you have from the downfalls in your life?
- v) How do past hurts and wrongs get in the way of your life today?
- vi) How can you release them and recover from them?
- vii) What larger historical and social drama gives context for your life?
- viii) Why do you think the world resists justice/righteousness so much?
- ix) What benefits are there to gain from working for justice?
- x) How are you changing history, and how would you like to change it?

**Meditation on your Lenten Action:**

Where do you find resonance, meaning, and inspiration in these Stations, and in this Beatitude, in the course of your work of service?

**Artistic expression:**

Make a collage from magazine images, using tear-shaped cut-outs of pictures that illustrate the wrongs in society, and in your own life, that you hunger and thirst to make right. You might make them in the shapes of items of food or drink.

**Peace to you and yours**

**Colin**

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<sup>i</sup> Recommended books to accompany this Lent study: adapted from [James Burklo](#)

Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary (Paperback)

by Marcus J. Borg (Harper One, 2008)

Campaign Boot Camp: Basic Training for Future Leaders (Paperback)

by Christine Pelosi (Polipoint Press, 2007)

The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus’s Final Week in Jerusalem (Hardcover)

by Marcus J. Borg, John Dominic Crossan (Harper One, 2006)

Jesus: A New Vision by Marcus Borg (Harper One, 1991)

The Five Gospels: The search for the authentic words of Jesus, by the Jesus Seminar (Polebridge Press, 1993)