

EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

PRAYER AND EUCHARIST, THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2, Eata Readings, June 16

Psalm 145:8-9 † Leviticus 19:17-18 † Matthew 5:43-48

BACKGROUND: *Once two women were musing over an idea. What would Jesus do with a group who gather not for Bible study, not for prayer, not for ministry but just to sit at His feet . . . to learn? . . . Unaware of this . . . a third woman had a dream while on holiday. One Wednesday morning the idea and the dream fused over coffee. What eventually transpired was a year-long engagement with the Sermon on the Mount as twelve women wrestled with the words— first memorizing them, then pondering them, then staging them as a dramatic presentation. Twenty years later we are still under their spell and trying to put them into practice.*

This month's meditations, written by Sarah Berry, are stories, experiences, little pieces of wisdom— and the questions that have come from the adventure of walking with Jesus through this sermon.

Daily Reading

These words and the words from yesterday go right to the heart of the sermon . . . and they are the words that challenge me the most— on a daily basis. Jesus is asking me to live life on terms other than my own. My life is to be “other” based even when the others are not treating me particularly well. He is asking me to be generous.

Every so often we [have] a Wednesday where we [do] something fun and fairly brainless. On one such occasion we watched the movie *Enchanted April*, in which four women rent a castle in Italy and learn to be generous. Lotte is first as she invites her miserly husband to come and share their paradise. “I am a mean dog,” she says . . . measuring love carefully— giving only as much as I am given.” Her life is pinched. But under the sun and wisteria, she and the other women unbend and learn to love. And the people around them begin to expand and blossom.

Be perfect, Jesus says— like your Father. As we continued to repeat these words, we heard them less as an impossible command and more as a compelling call.

Meditation (*Celtic Daily Prayer*, Book 1, Day 24)

Saviour and friend,
how wonderful art Thou!
my companion upon the changeful way,
the comforter of its weariness,
my guide to the eternal town,
the welcome at its gate.

-Alistair Maclean