



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

A Discerning Heart: Listening to Jesus

8:45 a.m. + February 13, 2022

In Aramaic and in all the Semitic languages, the word for "good" primarily means ripe, and the word for "corrupt" or "evil" primarily means unripe.

*When heard with Aramaic ears, those words [in Luke 6:43] might sound more like this:
"A ripe tree brings forth ripe fruit, an unripe tree brings forth unripe fruit."*

*This makes a world of difference. The tree is not morally bad, but rather unripe:
this is not the right time and place for it to bear.*

The saying gives an example from nature. Rather than imposing an external standard of goodness, the lesson has to do with time and place, setting and circumstance, health and disease.

Neil Douglas-Klotz

Opening the Heart

Seeking a Listening Heart

*Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,
Be still and listen,
Be still and wait.
Wait for the voice that once echoed through Eden.
That speaks affirmation,
That longs to create.
The voice in the garden, the voice in the cloud.
The voice in the temple still speaks aloud.*

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear.
There are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern,
What are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

*Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,
Shake off the darkness,
Shine with your light.
Willing to listen, to learn, and to follow.
To love with your passion,
To see with your sight.
Help me be watchful for where I'm asleep.
Attentive and mindful. God come and speak!*

Praying with Scripture

*May the Father of Glory - the God of our Lord, Jesus the Christ -
give to you a Spirit of Wisdom and Discovery as you come to know Him more deeply.
May the eyes of your heart be enlightened.*

"Quiet My Heart"

Ephesians 1:17-18

Seeking a Listening Heart

"Quiet My Heart"

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear.
There are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern,
What are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

Listening to Jesus

Luke 6:39-40

*He also told them a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?
A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like the teacher.*

Reflection

Song of Response

"God's Eye Be With Me"

*God's eye be within me,
God's foot be before me,
God's spirit be round me to shield and restore me.
God's freedom to choose me,
God's justice to fuse me,
God's purpose to liberate and transform and use me.*

Listening to Jesus

Luke 6:41-42

*Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?
Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you
yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye,
and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.*

Reflection

Song of Response

"This My Soul Loves"

*Wisdom, simplicity, poverty, humility,
Holy love and surrender.
God within all.
Grant me more of these, as I die to more of me.
Help me walk in obedience.
God over all.
Virtues transcending, love never ending.
This I desire, this my soul loves.
This is my mission, perfect submission.
This I desire, this my soul loves.*

Listening to Jesus

Luke 6:43-45

*No excellent tree makes corrupt fruit, nor again does a corrupt tree make excellent fruit;
for each tree is known by its own fruit.*

Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes ripely picked from a bramble bush.

*The ripe and good Human, out of the good treasury of the heart, brings forth the Good.
The troubled human, out of the troubled treasury of the heart, brings forth the Trouble.
For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.*

Reflection

Song of Response

“Within”

*Within. Within.
Within my soul a treasure lies,
The God of heaven and earth resides within. Within.
This temple built of flesh and bone,
Contains inside God's holy throne!
Within. Within. Within.*

*In faith. In fear.
No matter what may come along,
Within my heart you sing a song of hope, of love.
A reassuring melody that stirs from deep inside of me.
Within. Within. Within.*

Centering in the Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. You are in the Love of God. Christ is your Divine Center. There is nothing you need to do. Just be and relax. Center your attention in the good treasury of your heart. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Good, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Song of Response

“This My Soul Loves”

*Virtues transcending, love never ending.
This I desire, this my soul loves.
This is my mission, perfect submission.
This I desire, this my soul loves.*

Holy Communion

Listening for a Good Word

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If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

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