



Invitations and Warnings

...Christ's love sees us with terrible clarity and sees us whole. Christ's love so wishes our joy that it is ruthless against everything in us that diminishes our joy. The worst sentence Love can pass is that we behold the suffering that Love has endured for our sake, and that is also our acquittal. The justice and mercy of the judge are ultimately one.

– Frederick Buechner, from *Beyond Words: Daily Readings in the ABC's of Faith*, copyright © 2004 HarperSanFrancisco.

Jesus looked him hard in the eye – and loved him! He said, “There’s one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me.”

The man’s face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, “Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who ‘have it all’ to enter God’s kingdom?”

– Mark 10:21–23 from *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson, copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

The demand is *liberation*; the emphasis is *connectedness*; the corrective is *suffering*; the power is *imagination*; and the vocation is *tikkun olam* – the repair of the world.

– Maria Harris, from *Proclaim Jubilee: A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century*

Today I am giving you the laws and teachings of the LORD your God. Always obey them, and the LORD will make Israel the most famous and important nation on earth, and he will bless you in many ways...And if you don’t obey them all, he will put many curses on you.

– Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 15b from the *Contemporary English Version*, copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

My call for a spiritual revolution is thus not a call for a religious revolution. Nor is it a reference to a way of life that is somehow other-worldly, still less to something magical or mysterious. Rather, it is a call for a radical re-orientation away from our habitual preoccupation with self towards concern for the wider community of beings with whom we are connected, and for conduct which recognizes others’ interests alongside our own.

– The Dalai Lama



Spirit-led Leaders

In Isaiah 11:1-10, God’s Spirit bestows the following qualities upon the “shoot” of “the stump of Jesse.” Beside each quality, jot down what makes the quality an important one for leaders. How important do you think these six qualities are for leaders in your faith community? Rank the qualities in the order of their importance to you for church leaders today, with 1 being most important and 6 being least important.

| Trait named by Isaiah | Why this is an important quality for leaders | Rank of importance for today’s leaders |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Wisdom | | |
| Understanding | | |
| Counsel | | |
| Might | | |
| Knowledge | | |
| “Fear of God” | | |

What are the six most important qualities of leadership you look for in social and political leaders? List them below. In what way are they related to Isaiah’s six qualities of leaders in the chart above?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |