

FORGIVENESS - *Matthew West*

It's the hardest thing to give away
and the last thing on your mind today.
It always goes to those who don't deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel.
When the pain they caused is just too real,
it takes everything you have to say the word. Forgiveness...

It flies in the face of all your pride.
It moves away the mad inside.
It's always anger's own worst enemy.
Even when the jury and the judge
Say you have a right to hold a grudge,
It's the whisper in your ear saying 'set it free'. Forgiveness...

Show me how to love the unlovable.
Show me how to reach the unreachable.
Help me now to do the impossible. Forgiveness...
Help me now to do the impossible. Forgiveness...

It'll clear the bitterness away.
It can even set a prisoner free.
There is no end to what its power can do.
So let it go and be amazed
by what you see through eyes of grace.
The prisoner that it really frees is you! Forgiveness...

Show me how to love the unlovable.
Show me how to reach the unreachable.
Help me now to do the impossible
I want to finally set it free
So show me how to see what Your mercy sees.
Help me now to give what you gave to me. Forgiveness...

Prayer Leader:

Ron Konkoly
9/8/2020

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Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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To Ponder: Richard Rohr, “The Rhineland Mystics”
Speak of the Divine 8/7/2020

Meister Eckhart was frequently criticized by his contemporaries (and still is by some people today) because his language was far too unitive. We like our distinctions! We don't want to hear that we have the same soul as our enemies, not our personal ones and certainly not our cultural or global ones! We want to hate them, don't we? And far too often our religion seemingly gives us permission to do so. But mystics don't hate anyone. They simply can't. They pray, as Jesus does on the cross, “Father forgive them they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

The mystic knows what the other person doesn't know. It's not malice as much as ignorance and unawareness. And of course **it's a burden to know;** it's a responsibility to know because once we know that **God has inhabited all that God has created,** then all of our distinctions are silly. They are just ways to create self-importance and superiority for ourselves and put down someone else. We've played this game since our grade school!

Mysticism begins when we start to make room for a completely new experience of God as immanent, present here and now, with and within all of us. God isn't only transcendent, “out there,” and separate from me. When God is no longer out there or over there, we have begun the mystical journey. It's not simply that we have a new relationship with God. **It's as though we have a whole new God!**

Reading - Henri Nouwen: *Meditation on Making Room to Welcome Friends*

If it is true that solitude divides us from our fear and anger and makes us empty for a relationship with God, then it is also true that our emptiness provides a very large and sacred space where we can welcome all the people of the world.

There is a powerful connection between our emptiness and our ability to welcome. When we give up what sets us apart from others - not just property but also opinions, prejudices, judgements, and mental preoccupations—then we have room within to welcome friends as well as enemies.



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...