

THE GOSPEL WITH THE POOR

Worship and Justice



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Jesus' Opening Proclamation

"The time promised by God has come at last! The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"
(Mark 1:15 NLT)

Jesus' Mission Statement

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come." (Luke 4:18-19 NLT)

Show Mercy

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.¹⁰ Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."¹³ Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13 NLT)

Do Not Ignore Justice and Love

As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table.³⁸ His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom.³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, "You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy-- full of greed and wickedness!⁴⁰ Fools! Didn't God make the inside as well as the outside?⁴¹ So clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor, and you will be clean all over.⁴² What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." (Luke 11:37-42 NLT)

Seek Justice

When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims.¹⁶ Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. Give up your evil ways.¹⁷ Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. (Isaiah 1:15-17 NLT)

Mercy Is Our Only Ticket In

- Those who have received mercy show mercy.

We Cannot Follow Jesus and
Ignore Justice

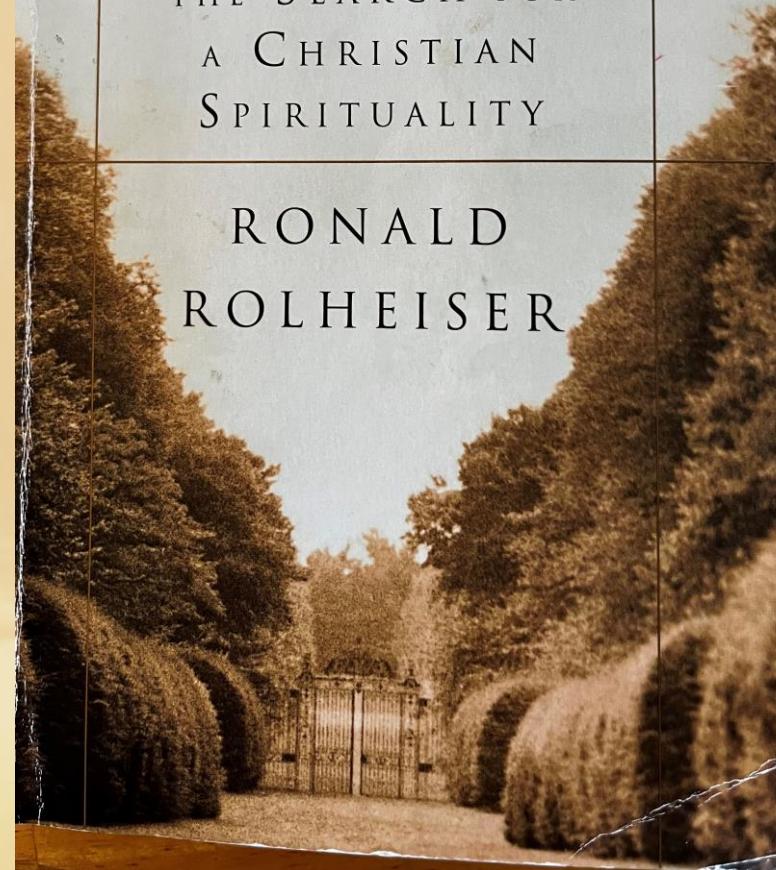
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15TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

THE HOLY LONGING

THE SEARCH FOR
A CHRISTIAN
SPIRITUALITY

RONALD
ROLHEISER



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I Need a Transformed Heart

I want to feel what God feels

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True Worship versus Worthless Worship

If worshipping doesn't change our hearts, then it has nothing to do with God and God wants nothing to do with it.

What Can We Do?

- Seek God's eyes and heart
- Look upstream
- Feel what God feels
- Ask God how he wants us to pursue justice and mercy

God *will* teach us to “Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.”

Invitation

- Pay attention to injustice in the world.
- Ask God to help you see it with his eyes and heart.
- Ask God what he wants you to do to seek justice and mercy.

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