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BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
FORGIVE OFTEN.
REJECT RACISM.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
EMBRACE DIVERSITY.
LOVE GOD.
Enjoy this life.

SOURCE: The Celtic Christian Tradition

JESUS AND THE REIGN OF GOD

We have just celebrated the feast of **Christ the King**. If Jesus is our King, than what kind of king is he? What is, or will his kingdom or reign, be like? **Richard Rohr** shares the following thoughts with us.

- The Reign of God is the subject of Jesus's inaugural address, his Sermon on the Mount, and the majority of his parables. It is clearly the guiding image of his entire ministry.
- Jesus is talking about the grace and the freedom to live God's dream for the world now—while not rejecting the world as it is. That's a mighty tension that is not easily resolved.
- Jesus says, "*The Kingdom of Heaven is within you*" , that is **Here and Now**.
- The Kingdom is about union and communion, it seems, which means that it is also about mercy, forgiveness, nonviolence, letting go, solidarity, service, and lives of love, patience, and simplicity. Who can doubt that this is the sum and substance of Jesus' teaching?
- In God's kingdom order becomes opportunity, stability melts into movement and change, status-quo government gives way to a revolution of community and neighborliness, policy bows to love, domination descends to service and sacrifice, control morphs into influence and inspiration, and vengeance and threats are transformed into forgiveness and blessing.

SOURCE: *Brian McLaren. Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope*



PRACTICE: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

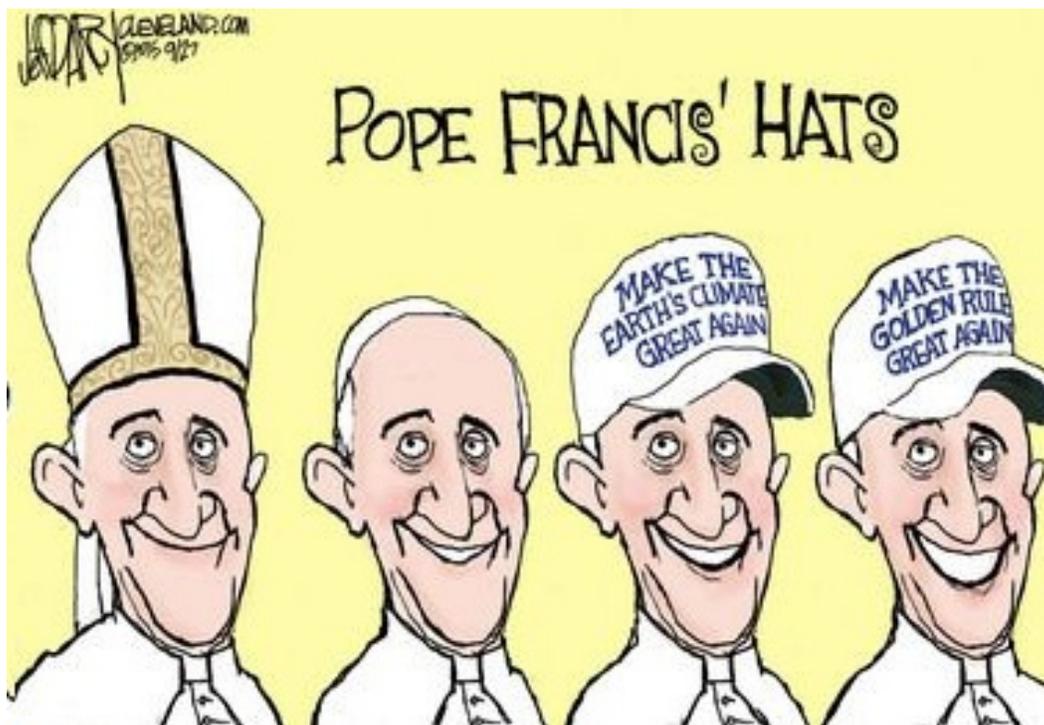
The gospel practices of confession, resistance, and nonviolent love are not . . . an exercise plan that will transform your church in thirty minutes a day. . . . These practices are simple steps that any group of people can take to move toward having church. But simple doesn't mean easy. By any honest account, they are hard. . . .

Still, Jesus insists that the remedy is simple. Practice the way of life God has outlined for you, and you will live. When the middle-class American whines that this plan is too simple (it will never work!), Jesus doesn't scold. "*He looked at him and loved him,*" Mark says. Jesus makes an honest assessment of the situation, then names the next step in gospel practice for this brother. "*Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor.*" (*The story of the rich young man, in Mark, chapter 10.*)

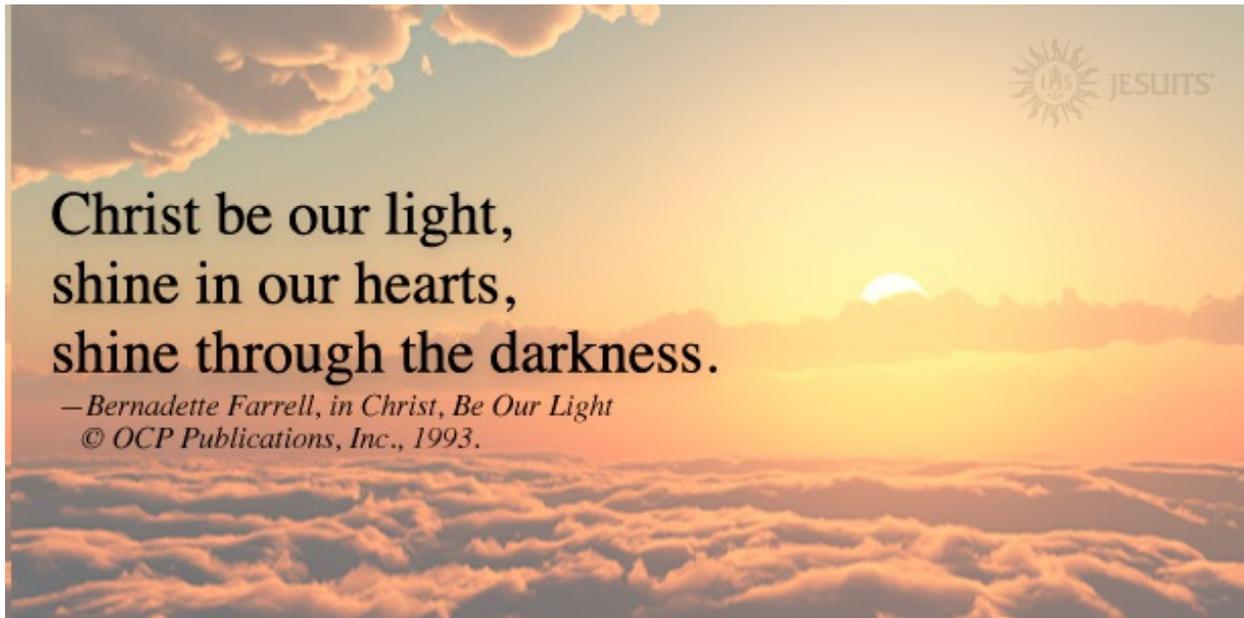
The next step for any of us is as particular as our context and the stories that have brought us into the relationships where we are. But the rich young ruler wouldn't have been talking to Jesus . . . if he didn't already sense something of what the next step in gospel practice would mean for him. . . .

Yes, gospel practices will cost us everything. But when we give ourselves to gospel practices, we gain what we could not have otherwise: "*homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life*" (*Mark 10:30*). We can begin to live the life that's really life—not some ideal (persecutions come right along with it!), but a beloved community that starts now and lasts forever. In short, when we trust the gospel's practices, letting them direct our lives, we begin to have what the New Testament calls "*church.*"

SOURCE: Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation
From the Center for Action and Contemplation
November 15 - November 20, 2020



LIVING WITH GOD FOREVER



Christ be our light,
shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.

—Bernadette Farrell, in *Christ, Be Our Light*
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St. Ignatius' opening line in the ***First Principle and Foundation in The Spiritual Exercises*** is "*The goal of our life is to live with God forever.*" For some, considering eternal life can seem abstract compared to our life with God on earth. Pedro Arrupe says, "*nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in love in quite an absolute final way.*" Here are a few questions to help move our minds, hearts and everliving soul from the abstract to practical.

Where Do I Find God?

Does this naturally deepen my love for him?
Can I imagine this as a love that lasts forever?
How does this move me?

Prayer

Forgive me Lord for thinking like a Sadducee.
I cannot believe how easy it is to think so much about this life
that I forget about eternal life with you.
Forgive my preference for thinking about this life
because I can tend to my desires and agenda at all times.
It can be hard to open my mind to such a grand thing as eternity with you.
Here I am at this moment asking for your help.
Reveal your glory that it may be a lamp unto my feet today.

SOURCE: Adam Mescher, www.dailyinspiration.org