

Mosaic Teaching Guide

21 March 2010 5th Sunday in Lent

Teaching Series: The Lenten Way

Teaching: *Confession and Guidance—The Way of Spiritual Solidarity*

James 5.13-18

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

Matthew 9.2-8

And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Then some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he then said to the paralytic—’stand up, take your bed and go to your home.” And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

Question

Simple question, your at the movies—popcorn or no popcorn?

Introduction

Jesus seems to have his priorities turned around in the gospel reading today. And so Jesus, noticing their faith for healing, proclaims forgiveness for sin.

The “S” Word

We are broken pieces who gather to create something beautiful for God.”
We are a mosaic.

Garden Life

God desires garden life with his creation. Garden life is the place in which humans, creation and God exist together in unhindered beauty, wholeness, and intimacy.

Atonement

I am still reflecting upon what we mean when we say Jesus “died for our sins.”

In the broken body of Christ we witness a God who, *because of love*, absorbs the corruption and brokenness of sin so we don't have to.

Sin, Authority and Resurrection

Authority is a huge issue in the gospels.
Authority gets a lot of bad press today.

The story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

“From Paralysis to Resurrection God's New Story for Us All.”

Confession as a Means of Grace

So what does this have to do with confession, guidance and solidarity?

Richard Foster's Story

Next Week: *Paul Sunday*