

Insane for the Light, A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years, by Ronald Rolheiser

Week 5- Chapter 4: Passivity as Generativity and Leaving Behind a Nurturing Spirit

Check in Question: Describe how you know that someone is truly present to you when you are sharing something of yourself. End cost for example

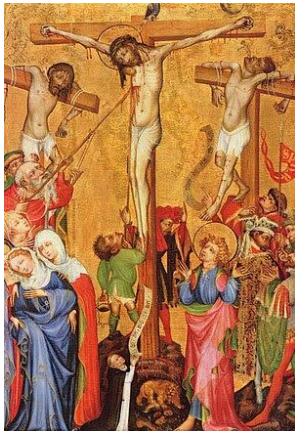
Opening Prayer

O God, when the signs of age begin to mark my body; when the ill that is to diminish me or carry me off strikes from without or is born within me; when the painful moments come in which I suddenly awaken to the fact that I am ill, or growing old; and above all, at that last moment when I feel I am losing hold of myself and am absolutely passive within the hands of the great unknown forces that have formed me; and all those dark moments, O God, grant that I may understand that it is you who are painfully parting the fibers of my being in order to penetrate to the very marrow of my substance and bear me away within yourself.... Teach me to treat my death as an act of communion.
(p53)

Reflection questions:

As you read through the following questions, select one or two that speak to you and be ready to share your reflection.

Chapter 5



1. If we divide Jesus' life into two movements — the active ministry before his arrest and the surrender and suffering after his arrest — Rolheiser says that both were deeply life-giving and generative. What do you think he means by that? Have you experienced times when both action and surrender brought growth or grace?
2. What did you learn or notice about Jesus' passivity during his Passion? How does his willingness to suffer and let go challenge or inspire you?
3. Blood gives life, and water cleanses and refreshes. At Jesus' crucifixion, blood and water flowed from his side. Rolheiser suggests

that, at our death, we will either leave behind life-giving love and healing or drain the life from those around us. Have you ever experienced a funeral or the death of someone where their life continued to give peace, hope, or love to others?

4. Rolheiser says that often we can fully “send our spirit” only after we are gone. Has someone who has died continued to influence, guide, or inspire your life in a deeper way after their death?
5. Rolheiser shares a moving story about children speaking at their mother’s funeral, realizing that through her death they would come to understand her spirit even more deeply. Have you ever come to appreciate or understand someone more fully after they passed away?
6. In the Eucharist, we enter more deeply into the mystery and life of Jesus. Which part of Jesus’ life, teachings, miracles, suffering, death, or resurrection speaks most deeply to your heart right now?

Closing Prayer

For whom and what shall we pray...

Loving God,
you showed us in Jesus
that there is holiness both in acting and in surrendering,
both in speaking and in silence,
both in serving and in letting go.

As we reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
help us to trust that even our weakness, suffering, and losses
can become places of grace and new life.

Teach us to live in such a way
that we leave behind love instead of bitterness,
hope instead of fear,
and peace instead of division.

We thank you for the people
whose spirit continues to bless us even after death,
and for the ways you continue to reveal yourself
through memory, community, and the Eucharist.

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Christ
wash us clean, renew our hearts,
and teach us how to give our lives generously for others.

Stay close to us, Lord,
until the day we are gathered fully into your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Overview of our meetings

Week 6- Chapter 5: The Modality and Darkness of Faith and Its Deeper Stages of Maturing

Week 7- Chapter 6: Forest Dwelling and Preparing to Find Our Beggars Hut

Week 8- Chapter 7: Finding Beggar's Hut and Giving our Deaths Away

Week 9- Chapter 8: Thoughts on the Afterlife

Week 10- Chapter 9: A Paradigm from a Christian Mystic