

THIN SPACES

encountering glory

Thin Space

The distance between heaven and earth, between the Divine and the human, between the immortal and the mortal has become thin

- heaven comes close,*
- God's glory comes near*
- life is forever altered*

Thin Spaces

Moses glory in a space where we regularly meet
with God

Abel glory in our vocational work

Moses glory when hope was deferred

Thin Spaces: The Systems of the World

Hagar glory in failed social systems

Leah glory in failed family systems

Hannah glory in failed religious systems

“Transformation of the world of violence into a world of love ... takes radical change, and not just an act of indiscriminate acceptance, for the world to be made into a world of love.

The Christian tradition has tied this change with the coming of the Messiah, the crucified and the resurrected One, whose appearance in glory is still awaited. ...

Jesus Christ did not come into the world in order to conquer evildoers through an act of violence, but to die for them in self-giving love and thereby reconcile them to God. The outstretched arms of the suffering body on the cross define the whole of Christ's mission.

He condemned the sin of humanity by taking it upon himself; and by bearing it, he freed humanity from its power and restored their communion with God. Though suffering on the cross is not all Christ did, the cross represents the decisive criterion for how all his work is to be understood.”

Miroslav Volf

Perhaps one of the hardest places for us to express self-giving love and be present in a cruciform way – is in the midst of conflict!

BACKGROUND

1. “*Now Samuel died*” (1 Sam 25:1)

David’s mentor, spiritual support, pastor, guide.

This would have rocked David’s world.

BACKGROUND

“Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel” (1 Sam 25:7)

David reinforces his identity as a competent and skilled shepherd of sheep.

BACKGROUND

“And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them.” (1 Sam 22:2)

David reinforces his identity as a competent and skilled shepherd of men.

BACKGROUND

Nabal – wealthy man whose name means fool

“The fool says in his heart there is no God.” (Ps 14:1)

Abigail – wise and beautiful

“The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite”

(1 Sam 25:3)

BACKGROUND

Nabal –chooses to inflame David in an irresponsible manner.

“Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?” (1 Sam 25:10,11)

BACKGROUND

“Every man strap on his sword! And every man of them strapped on his sword. David strapped on his sword. And about 400 men went up after David, while 200 remained with the baggage.” (1 Sam 25:13)

BACKGROUND

“Behold David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we

BACKGROUND

did not miss anything while we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know this and consider

BACKGROUND

what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him.”

(1 Sam 25:14-17).

ABIGAIL ACTS: She rides into danger

“David said, Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil

for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male to all who belong to him.”

(1 Sam 25:21-22).

ABIGAIL ACTS: She prepares a just recompense

*“Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves
and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared*

and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs and laid them on donkeys.”

(1 Sam 25:18).

ABIGAIL ACTS: From a posture of humility

“When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet . . .”

(1 Sam 25: 23).

ABIGAIL ACTS: Courageously reframing reality

“Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from blood guilt and from saving with your own hand . . .

. . . Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my Lord is fighting the battles of the LORD and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. . .

. . . my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. . .”

(1 Sam 25:26, 28, 31).

ABIGAIL ACTS: Courageously reframing reality

“And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no

*cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed
blood without cause or for my lord working salvation
himself.”*

(1 Sam 25:30).

DAVID is saved by God

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel who sent you this day to meet me. Blessed be your discretion and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand!”

(1 Sam 25:32-33).

David acknowledges

1. Abigail came on the LORD's behalf
2. Abigail preserved David from breaking relationship with God by becoming guilty of bloodshed and by not relying on God to work salvation on his behalf.

“My friends, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)

Reflect

The cross represents the decisive criterion for how all of your life work should be understood.

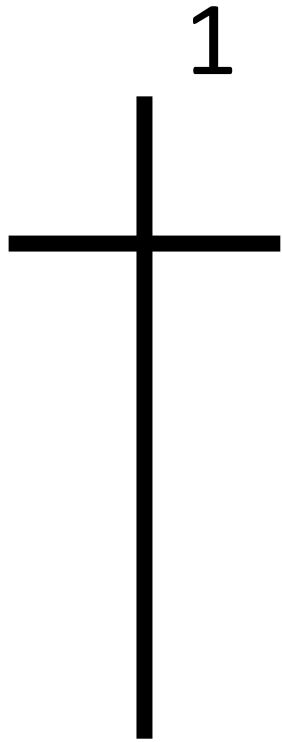
Your life work is being done through relationships – to God, to others, to the created world

“Family of God, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.”

(Galatians 6:1-5)

Four Stations of the Cross

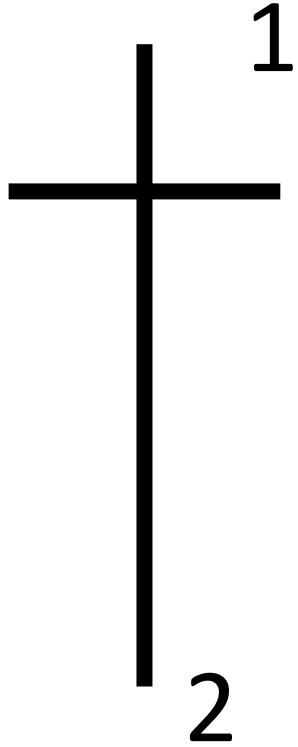


STATION ONE

Keep your eyes on God – the Father, Son & Holy Spirit as the model of self-giving and truth sharing in community.

*“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill **the law of Christ.**”*

Four Stations of the Cross

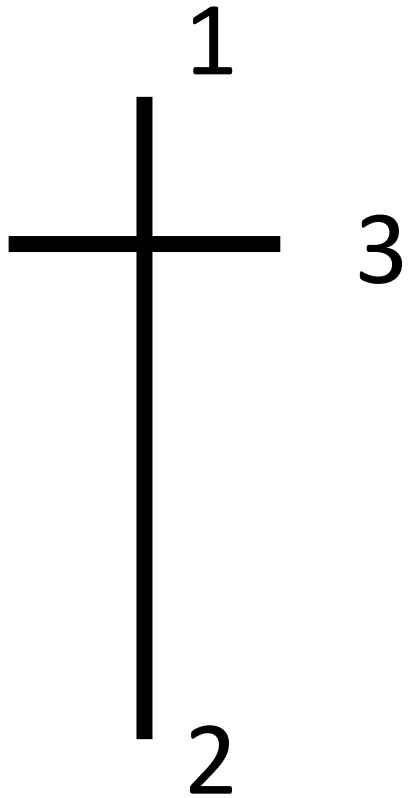


STATION TWO

Stand at the foot of the cross to receive the grace a failing, forgiven sinner needs to intervene

“For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work. . .”

Four Stations of the Cross

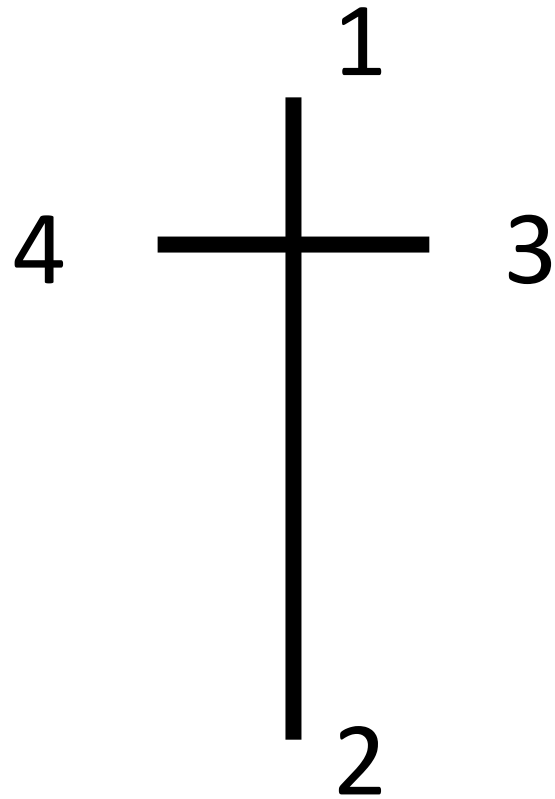


STATION THREE

Set the bone that is out of
place by speaking the painful,
healing truth

“You who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. . .”

Four Stations of the Cross



STATION FOUR

Lovingly pick up the sin burden and help them carry it until they are fully restored.

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

““Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, meek, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” *(Mt 21:5).*