



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

May 2023

The Wonderful Exchange

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We are in the glow of the Easter season. Spring is bursting out all over, and in this North Temperate Zone, nature is dancing with liturgical time. What are we celebrating? New life, you say? Ah...but why is that so...? Keep watching for the mystery hidden in the readings. They are giving evidence of a wonderful exchange! Keep watch for it in the evening news too, for it is at work there.

In very common language, you might call it a 'new deal.' Again, in very common language you might say it this way: We really blew it. We messed things up big time. God had this plan for humanity, and we wrecked it. Now, God, being Love, is not going to settle for us using our freedom to wreck things. God has a Plan B. It goes like this:

"How about a new deal. You give me your DNA. With your DNA I can have a body. If I have a body, I, who am eternal, can die, OK? If I enter death, I am a poison pill. Death will be destroyed. It no longer is final. Then, in exchange, I will give you my eternal life. Then you can live safely with me forever, even though you wrecked things, OK?"

Then, Mary, who spoke for humanity, said, "Yes!" In contrast to Eve, she said, "Yes! Of course I will give you a body. Of course I will do as you ask...of course, I'm in...it's a deal!"

Now this is certainly not how the scripture tells it...but this is the wonderful exchange. We give God our 'stuff', who in the Word takes on our humanness. Now Love, who has a body, can suffer death to break its hold on us. In return we are given life that is unending...eternal...a wonderful exchange. In theological language, this is called the New Covenant, the new deal, the new arrangement.

This is the Good News. We who have been made disciples by our baptism, now tell the good news to invite others to become disciples. We are women and men of the good Word, the word of life, the word of the truth that does justice.

*You never give up on us, do You...
Does your Love even have a Plan C...?
You give even your very self, in your Son...
And what do you ask in return?
Myself.
So take what is Yours.
I know a good deal when I see one...
A wondrous exchange...*

Thank you to S. Carmen Agbuis for this month's reflections.

May 7, 2023 | John 14: 1-12

As Sister Carla Mae introduced the May Scriptures “in the glow of this Easter Season,” she alerts us to watch for New Life in the mystery hidden in the readings. She calls it the “wonderful exchange, the New Covenant.” Jesus takes on a body - now he can suffer death and in return, we are given life that is unending New Life. Jesus says, “I am the Truth and the Life.” How do we testify that we are the truth and the life by our lives’ actions?

May 14, 2023 | John 15: 18-21

Jesus says we do not belong to the world and that He has chosen us out of the world. Others will persecute us, because they do not know the Father. What are we willing to do or give up in order to be authentic Disciples of Christ?

May 21, 2023 | John 17: 1-11a

Jesus continues in intimate prayer with His Father and says, “Father, glorify Me.” How do we glorify God? With blaring trumpets, clapping hands, shouts of joy? Sometimes yes. What if glory is the revelation of God’s boundless love?

He glorified the Father on earth by doing God’s works and we are expected to carry that on. Maybe we do this in quiet, small ways like speaking kindness and helping someone in need. Glory to God.

May 28, 2023 | John 20: 19-23

Jesus reminds us that as the Father sent Him so Jesus Christ send us, and we also receive the Holy Spirit. We are sent to tell the Good News and invite others to become Disciples.

The Christian Paschal cycle has five moments in the earthly life of Jesus – Good Friday, Easter Sunday forty days of Resurrection appearances, His Ascension and Pentecost. They can be a paradigm for how we are to handle our daily disappointments, our losses, our brokenness and also our simple joys.

Are we using this remembering and celebrating of this Paschal cycle to the max, regarding deepening our prayer and spirituality and definitely some actions, not only words?

