

## 08-14-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The harsh sayings and indictments resounding in this text [from Luke] remind us that Jesus has not come to validate the social realities and values we have constructed. Such social realities and values have a propensity to seek a harmony that favors those who hold positions of power at the expense of those who are powerless and expendable. Jesus’ missional agenda of compassion, mercy, and justice shatters such a status quo.”

- Richard P. Carlson



Hebrews 12:1-2 ✝ Luke 12:49-56

### Questions for Reflection —

- What persons (from the Bible, from Christian history over the centuries, living people with whom your life path crossed at some point) have served as models of faith for you over the course of your life? How has your own faith been shaped by those examples? What would it look like for you to exemplify a vibrant active faith? What do you need to lay aside that may be hindering your walk with God? What spiritual practices will help you keep your focus on following Jesus?
  
- What is the status quo that needs to be challenged in your life? In the life of our congregation? What spiritual practices help you to discern what accords with God’s purpose in your life? What will enable you to engage those practices more deeply and align your life more clearly with God’s intentions? How can we as a congregation discern what accords with God’s purpose for the future of the programs and ministries of our congregation? How can we better embody Jesus’ missional agenda of compassion, mercy, and justice?
  
- What potentially divisive issues—religious, social, political, economic—concern you the most? What impact have your views on those issues had on interpersonal relationships in your life? What does it mean for you to apply faith values to those issues? What do you think is the role of a faith community in addressing potentially divisive issues? How can we listen to one another over highly charged subjects and across divergent viewpoints? What are the consequences of remaining silent for the sake of harmony?

### Daily Household Prayer

Grant us, O God, the grace to do and think what accords with your purpose; that we, who cannot exist without your mercy, may be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.