

This Sunday at 9:30 Fr. Eric and Mtr. Kimberly will facilitate the third session of our Advent book study on Howard Thurman's book, Jesus and the Disinherited. This Sunday we're discussing chapter four: Hate. Please find some discussion questions below to help guide our conversation.

1. Thurman "diagrams" hatred in the beginning of the chapter: 1. a situation of contact without fellowship; 2. contacts without fellowship lead to an understanding that is profoundly unsympathetic; 3. an unsympathetic understanding leads to an active functioning of ill will; 4. ill will becomes "hated walking the earth." Do you agree with this "diagram"? How would you diagram the path to hate?
2. Hate seems to do two positive things (before it does all the negative stuff): provides a foundation for individual significance and protects against moral disintegration. Do you recognize either of these functions in your own life?
3. Hatred functions a little differently, it seems to me, than the other hounds of hell in that it does not begin as a mechanism for immediate survival in an encounter with the strong partner of an unequal relationship. What difference does this make for our understanding of it, compared to fear and deception?
4. Thurman treats hatred not just as a taboo that has been forbidden by divine edict, but as a moral danger that destroys the personality. Are you used to thinking about morality in this way? Could you apply this approach elsewhere in life?
5. We've now covered the hounds of hell and next will turn to the final chapter - love. What do you think Thurman needs to do in that last chapter?