

February 17, 2019
Epiphany 6
Another Way: A Different Perspective

Ancient Reading ~ Luke 6:17-26

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon — all people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the reign of God is yours. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you’ll laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One. On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way. But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full. Woe to you who are full, for you’ll go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you’ll weep in your grief. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.”

Contemporary Reading ~ *adapted from Eckhart Tolle*

The human mind, in its desire to know, understand, and control, mistakes its opinions and viewpoints for the truth. It says: “this is how it is”. You have to be larger than thought to realize that, however you interpret “your life” or someone else’s life or behavior, however you judge any situation, it is no more than a viewpoint, one of many possible perspectives. But reality is one unified whole, one in which all things are interwoven, where nothing exists in and by itself. Thinking fragments reality; it cuts it up into conceptual bits and pieces. The thinking mind is a useful and powerful tool, but it is also very limiting when it takes over your life completely, when you don’t realize that it is only a small aspect of the consciousness that you are.

Wisdom is not a product of thought. The deep knowing that is wisdom arises through the simple act of giving someone or something your full attention. Attention is primordial intelligence, it is consciousness itself. It dissolves the barriers created by conceptual thought, and with this comes the recognition that nothing exists in and by itself. It joins the perceiver and the perceived in a unifying field of awareness. It is indeed the healer of separation.