

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

Real Presence In Our Relationship With Self

We have been taught there are two options when faced with adversity: fight and flight. Do we dig in and fight? Or do we run and hide? The problem with these two options is that both are fueled by self-preservation. When the going gets tough, we typically retreat into self-interest, even when our objectives are noble.

Jesus, in his moment of truth, introduces us to a third option: to love. Certainly, he was tempted to fight—indeed someone brought swords along to the garden on that night. And certainly, he would have been tempted to flee—run away and live to serve another day. But Jesus' thinking was never self-indulgent or self-directed. In the moment of greatest adversity, he chooses to give of his own flesh and blood so that love—not hatred or fear but love—would rule the day.

*Character, Jesus shows us in Eucharist, is revealed in adversity. And the person of Christlike character does not fight or flee. Those of Christlike character choose a third option, a better option—to give their own lives over to love. **Do this** in memory of me.*

Living with Real Presence: Eucharist As An Approach to Life
S. James Meyer, 23rd Publications

Questions to Ponder:

Recall a stressful time in your life. Review the circumstances. Did you experience more fight or flight in that experience?

Do you experience any ongoing or repeated challenges in your life? How might things change if you reacted with less fighting or fleeing and found new ways to bring more love to the situations?

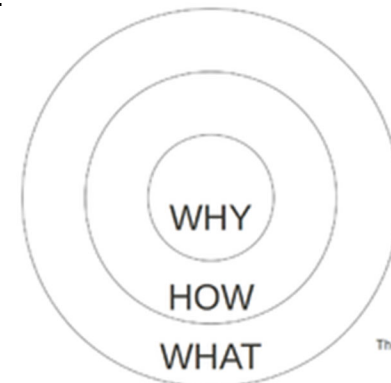
Lectio Divina: Read John 10:1-10

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Easter journey?

Challenge for the Week: Take some time this week to take a piece of paper and pen, and draw three circles on your paper. In the inner circle write **why** you exist—describe your purpose. In the middle circle outline **how** you do what you do in living that purpose. Finally, in the outer circle write down **what** you do, the activities you engage in, when living out your purpose, your **Why**, in life.



The 'golden circle' from Simon Sinek