

Daily Meditation 01/11/2023

Dorothee Soelle on Christ's Need for Us

Good morning.

Today we are privileged to look at another poem by Dorothee Soelle, the feminist and liberation theologian and lover of the mystics, and teacher of the mystics, born in Hamburg, Germany, who was a child during the Second World War in Germany.

In this poem, she urges us to come to the realization that our job is to help bring about Christ's vision and sense of the coming of the kingdom/queendom of God. And she says:

*help him
that's what faith is*

That's what faith is: help him. So faith for her is action. It's a verb. It's not a stack of doctrines or dogmas that need to be defended at all costs, it's not ecclesial structures that need to be piously cared for, if you will, or observed all the time.

Faith is helping Christ: that is, carrying on the vision that Christ had, of blessedness: blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn and weep, etc.

*help him
that's what faith is.
he can't bring it about
his kingdom
couldn't then couldn't later can't now
not at any rate without you
that is his irresistible appeal.*

That last line I find very wonderful: that there is an appeal going on here. And it's irresistible, irresistible not only to those who call themselves Christians, but to all of us as human beings. We want to bring about a more just, a more joyful, a more celebratory, a more grateful, more forgiving, more kind, a more compassionate world.

This move from faith as doctrines and ideas or concepts, without which you get burned at the stake or condemned to hell -- a move from that, to his invitation to action, not just action as reaction, but deep action, the action of bringing spirit into the world.

This move is what we celebrate in Christ and in Buddha and Buddha's teachings, and in prophets of Israel, and in the Koran, and all religions, I think, are calling us to our better selves.

As Jesus put it, "Be you compassionate is your Creator in heaven is compassionate."

By saying that he's assuring us we're capable of that: we can move on to the arena of compassion, interdependence, healing, out of the arenas of hostility and violence and projection and lies.

This, I think, is being said by Dorothee Soelle when she says, "Grace cannot do it without us."

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.