



SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LENTEN SERIES 2006
A COVENANTAL RESPONSE TO POVERTY
WEEK 3 – FEAR VS. FAITH

Opening Prayer:

Psalm 23

Bible Study:

- *Psalm 23 – I shall not want*

Why might our prayers begin with, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”? What kind of “wants” does God take care of? What do we waste our time wanting?

- *Mark 6: 30-44 – Jesus provides*

What are the miracles of the loaves and fishes? How would fear of going hungry have prevented the people from experiencing the miracle? How willing are we to trust and share? How much is enough? What do we hunger for other than food?

- *Mark 10: 17-22 – Priorities*

What choice does Jesus lay before the rich man? How does the man pay for that choice? What do we lose when fear wins? How do the most vulnerable pay for our fear? How are we changed when faith wins over fear?

Guest Speaker:

Christine Tyler, Director of Policy and Clinical Activities at the Community Health Partnership speaks about our current health care crisis.

Discussion Questions:

- How does poor health care affect everyone?
- When I pray, “I shall not want”, what am I hoping not to want so much? How can I work towards that kind of trust/faith? What does Jesus want? (see song lyrics)
- What is keeping me “poor”? How does that affect my ability to help others?

Closing Prayers:

- Recite the baptismal covenant – BCP page 304
- Christ, we live in a world filled with suffering and death, but you call us to lose our lives for the world you love. Give us insight and energy as we seek to use our resources to create health and prosperity for all people. Amen.
(Bread for the World)

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2094 GRANT ROAD, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA 94040
WWW.STTIMS.ORG

Take Home Challenges:

- Pray: Imagine that the poor mothers and children you see in the street, in the newspaper, or on television are the faces of Mary and Jesus. Allow the reality of their experience to touch your heart and offer a prayer for them. Visualize these mothers and children made whole. Pray for healthcare reform so that all have access to decent medical care and have a fighting chance to prevent disease.
- Learn: Commit to reading all the articles you can find about health care in the newspaper for the next week. What are the major issues in the news? What are the various positions people are taking? Where do you stand on these issues?
- Act: This week, take the time to deepen one conversation with a friend or neighbor by talking about poverty. Listen to what they know about the topic. What concerns do they have? What worries and opportunities are they aware of? Don't argue or judge, but listen carefully and learn how the world looks at the issue of poverty.

Rich Young Ruler

Derek Webb

(vs. 1)

poverty is so hard to see
when it's only on your tv and twenty miles across town
where we're all living so good
that we moved out of Jesus' neighborhood
where he's hungry and not feeling so good
from going through our trash

he says, more than just your cash and coin
i want your time, i want your voice
i want the things you just can't give me

(vs. 2)

so what must we do
here in the west we want to follow you
we speak the language and we keep all the rules
even a few we made up

come on and follow me
but sell your house, sell your suv
sell your stocks, sell your security
and give it to the poor

what is this, hey what's the deal
i don't sleep around and i don't steal
i want the things you just can't give me

(bridge)

because what you do to the least of these
my brothers, you have done it to me
because i want the things you just can't give me