

LIVING IT OUT

SESSION 11 REDEMPTION, VIOLENCE, AND SALVATION

To redeem means to “restore the honor or worth of something”; “to save.”

Jesus lived fully and faithfully. His life was full of redeeming acts and teachings. In the face of violence, he stayed true to who he was and the gifts he could share.

Read the following scriptures and contemplate redemption, violence and salvation.

Luke 4:14-30

Can you think of a time you focused on the gifts God has given you and the work you are called to do instead of being sidetracked by those who sought to do you harm in some way?

Matthew 26:47-56

What are the ways God has saved you, even from yourself/your own actions?

John 8:1-11

What does wisdom have to teach us about response to threat and violence?

As part of your spiritual practices, consider:

Mentoring an at-risk child or youth or becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Volunteering to help at a domestic violence shelter, a rape crisis center or become part of their work of advocacy against violence.

Making or commissioning bags to be made for Child Protective Service. When children must be removed from their home, often their belongings are placed in a garbage bag. Individuals and groups in Tucson, Arizona and other cities are donating magnificent drawstring bags for social workers to use and children to keep.

Prayer

God of new beginnings and second chances, what would you have us learn from such small and seemingly insignificant things such as a cradle, a donkey, and a loaf of bread? What would you have us learn from those who live on the margins? Teach us what we can do to break the violent cycle of hunger, homelessness, neglect, abuse, and living in any desperate situation. In the midst of all our work, keep us diligent in preserving the dignity of others. In the name of Christ who lived peace and restored wholeness. Amen.

– Cynthia Langston Kirk

