



The Way of Wisdom

Part Four: **STEP**

July 12, 2020

The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:11-40

The context of Matthew's Gospel: the failure of Israel's religious leaders

The context of Luke's Gospel: faithfulness in light of the delay of the coming kingdom: **19:11-27**

Faithful action, even of the smallest stripe, is essential

Good action begets a momentum of good, bad action begets a momentum of bad

But **NO** action results in diminishment and withering: **Matt 13:12; 25:29; Mar 4:25; Lk 19:26; John 15:2**

The irony of fear of loss keeping us from action

Good Intentions are not Sufficient in the Kingdom of God

Thinking and doing

The parable of the two sons: **Matt 21:28-31**

Books on my bookshelf

Small Steps Can Be Huge Steps

We live in the context of a sovereign God

What Jesus can do with two fish and five loaves: **John 6:1-14**

The tipping point of the breaking branch

Where a small step might lead

Hopkins' tribute poem to St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, a door porter

Even Wrong Steps Can Serve God's Good Purposes

Making all things work together for good: **Romans 8:28**

When our desire is to please the Lord it is hard "to go wrong"

When a 0 becomes 8

The old woman becomes young again

This Kairos Moment of Racial Injustice in Our Country

The inevitable slide back toward normal who have the privilege of being able to ignore it

What small step can each of us take to gain interest toward a more just society?

A pause for prayer as Tony sings the prayer song "Step by Step"

↑Book discussion, ↑summer NT reading, ↑books/movies, ↑initiating/rekindling friendships across racial lines, ↑seeking wisdom from mentor, ↑seeking to find a mentor of another race, ↑volunteer with some ministry working for justice

To Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez, Laybrother of the Society of Jesus

HONOUR is flashed off exploit, so we say;

And those strokes once that gashed flesh or
galled shield

Should tongue that time now, trumpet now that
field,

And, on the fighter, forge his glorious day.

On Christ they do and on the martyr may;

But be the war within, the brand we wield
Unseen, the heroic breast not outward-steeled,
Earth hears no hurtle then from fiercest fray.

Yet God (that hews mountain and continent,
Earth, all, out; who, with trickling increment,

Veins violets and tall trees makes more and
more)

Could crowd career with conquest while there
went

Those years and years by of world without event

That in Majorca Alfonso watched the door.

-- Gerard Manley Hopkins

I wanted to suggest donating or volunteering at Urban Impact. UI is a ministry of Emerald City Bible Fellowship (Harvey Drake's Covenant church) and another church in the Rainier Valley. They work to address poverty there. I am involved in their entrepreneur program. I am a mentor to two black entrepreneurs. Below is a video recruiting more mentors from Bethany Community Church. The video is produced by BCC. Overlake Christian Church currently supplies some mentors. This is just a look into one thing UI does. While what I do is of limited interest as BCC and OCC have found (it requires time, passion for business, and business experience), UI may be a place for Highland folk to contribute to a Covenant organization in other volunteer capacities or with money. Like all charities in these days of Covid they are hurting for money. UI does great work addressing the challenges in the Rainier Valley.