

Spiritual help is available when times get tough

By JIM RYAN
Herald Special
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 6:17, 20-26
Feb. 16, 1992

A spirituality for tough economic times
Hard economic times? You bet!
Is there a good side? Not according to the media. You can watch, listen or read, but all you'll get is bad news.
Is there another side to the story? Well of course!
But naturally (We're adults right?) it doesn't come cheap.
We're talking about the spiritual side of an economic downturn.
Yeah! And if you thought the material costs were steep, the spiritual costs will kill you.
But we're adults right? And killing you, whether softly or roughly, isn't just a metaphor. It'll really kill you, but in the spiritual world that's good.
(Shouldn't we have a role for spiritual economists on the evening news?)

Spiritual economists are harder on you than the most conservative material economists. We're not talking a masochistic economics; but we are talking hurting economic strategies.

If you could find a country singer who could sing hurting songs from a spiritual point of view, and have him or her booked into the Hollywood, I'd be a patron.

Spiritual economists are more tired of over-spending and deficit financing in a spiritual sense than Michael Wilson. If you thought Wilson had a patent on a belt-tightening system that rivals diet pills for results, then look at the spiritual economists. They're great for fat reduction.

We'll talk about two.

Carl Jung is one; Jesus is another.

A psychoanalyst for tough economic times

Take Carl Jung. Robert Bly includes this story about Carl Jung in his book, *Iron John*.

"It is said that whenever a friend reported enthusiastically, 'I have just been promoted!' Jung would say, 'I'm very sorry to hear that; but if we stick

together, I think we will get through it.' If a friend arrived depressed and ashamed, saying, 'I've just been fired,' Jung

would say, 'Let's open a bottle of wine; this is wonderful news; something good will happen now.'

Historic building

Do you know the history of this building?

If the answer is no, you are not alone. Not too many do.

This is the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Salmonville and now the Community Centre of Terra Cotta built in 1862.

The first church service was held in early 1863, becoming the United Church of Canada in 1925. Then in 1950 it was given to Terra Cotta for a Community Centre. According to the written minutes at a public meeting, the trustees of the church were elected as trustees of the community centre and is still operating as a community centre by a group of dedicated volunteers.

This year we are planning some 130th birthday events and

need the help of any interested parties, history buffs and historians, etc. If you have pictures, newspaper clippings, photographs or memories about the church or community centre in Tucker's Mill - Plewes' Mill, Salmonville, Terra Cotta (all the same place), we would be very grateful if you would load them to us. (They will be returned to you.)

Write to: Terra Cotta History Committee, Box 590, Terra Cotta, Ontario, L0P 1N0. Or call: A.J. Von Zuben, 416-877-3117, R.R. 1 Terra Cotta, Ontario, L0P 1N0 (evenings).

P.S. Did you grow up in Terra Cotta? Why not come back and share your memories and help us celebrate our 130th birthday.



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Religion and Reality
by
Jim Ryan

A gospel for tough economic times

How about Jesus? In this week's gospel Jesus says, "How happy are you who are poor; yours is the Kingdom of God... But alas for you who are rich; you are having your consolation now."

These two spiritual economists seem to agree.

But what does it mean?

Wait, there's more.

Happy you who are hungry

now, you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now, you shall laugh.

And conversely, alas for you who have your fill now; you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now; you shall mourn and weep.

What does it mean?

The spiritual economists refer to this as the katabasis principle. In a spiritual economy it means that the person or community is discovering new spiritual riches. The community begins to live at a deeper level. The community which lives according to this principle has learned to be discontented with all limited things, and is willing to dig deeper.

Luke: A gospel writer for tough economic times

But seriously folks, without irony, Luke is the right guy to read in tough times. His approach: the good person is the one who copes realistically and resourcefully with what has come upon him or her.

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Bible Digest

"And he taught, saying unto them, Is it written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves." Mark 11:17

It is past time for prayer to become a priority of God's people. Take them to pray.

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not of us." 1 John 2:19

Real followers of Jesus will endure to the end. Are you a real Christian?

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