

Weekly Meditation, March 10, 2010
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Reimagining Reality

“...the work of spirituality, the work of Jesus [is to create] a new symbolic universe at the dangerous level of imagination. Jesus is involved in a war of myths; the ultimate battle for the soul is to change the way we imagine our reality...Jesus tells us to withdraw our allegiance from the world of bigness, clarity, immediacy, looking good and security (the old order) and to see life instead as smallness, patience, humility, inner wisdom and risk-taking (the new order). Once your symbolic world changes, once you’re converted in the guts, you’re trapped in the truth and you can never forget it. You can no longer take some things seriously.” ~ Richard Rohr, “Jesus’ Plan for a New World”

There are some very good books in the popular culture that are beginning to explore things like the power of intention, the law of attraction, the power of now. They recognize that there are untapped possibilities, personal and spiritual power at the level of our imagination. They rightly point out that what frequently holds us back from developing our potential as whole, human beings is – in part – the way we represent reality to ourselves.

So I read these books and get pretty pumped up about the amazing universe in which I live. I feel like these powerful ideas bring us right to the brink of enlightenment and the unleashing of Spirit. But then it seems to me that at the last minute folks do a detour and try to apply these things to the “old order” instead of the “new order” that Jesus lived and breathed and taught. This new order would turn things upside down, offering a new symbolic universe and a new way of imagining our reality.

We are conditioned by the world in which we live to want more, bigger, faster; we want stuff (of any kind: physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual) that will make us feel safe, smart and fulfilled, and we miss the point entirely. The “new order” Jesus models for us is just the opposite: smallness, patience, humility, wisdom, risk-taking. These don’t usually rank high on the world’s list of most desirable things.

We like the *idea* of Jesus and in churches we comfortably worship that idea every Sunday, but living like he lived...seeing the world like he saw it...reimagining how things might be...really being “converted in the guts”...well that’s another story.

Prayer: God, give me the courage to risk seeing things differently and to risk being different. Enter into my awareness and help me imagine what *You* might like to do today, in me, in my family, in my work, in my world. Amen.