Tattoos on the Heart: Introduction

1. Describe Dolores Mission parish and its surrounding neighborhood in the 1980s. (1 pt)

2. Describe how Dolores Mission School came about. What was it like? (1 pt)

3. How did the people of Dolores Mission parish feel about having gang members “kick it” at church? What changed their mind? (1 pt)

4. Describe “Jobs for a Future.” (1 pt)
5. Fr. Greg spent a great deal of time playing mediator. How did that work out for him? (1 pt)

6. What happened during the summer of 1992? (1 pt)

7. How did the bakery get started? (1 pt)

8. Why did they start tattoo removal? (1 pt)

9. In what sense is Homeboy Industries a gang rehabilitation center? (1 pt)

10. Who participates in Homeboy Industries? Can anyone get a job there? (1 pt)
Key Quotations to Reflect Upon

1. “A new sense of ‘church’ had emerged, open and inclusive, replacing the hermetically sealed model that had kept the ‘good folks’ in and the ‘bad folks’ out.” P. 3 (2 pts)

2. “I wrote more rubber checks than a U.S. congressperson. We constantly lived in the paradox of precariousness. The money was never there when you needed it, and it was always on time.” P. 5 (2 pts)

3. “Some were Pyrrhic victories such as an agreement not to shoot into houses.” P.5 (2 pts)

4. “That was then; this is now. Though I don’t regret having orchestrated these truces and treaties, I’d never do it again. The unintended consequence of it all was that it legitimized the gangs and fed them oxygen.” P. 5 (2 pts)
5. “You have to crawl before you can walk, and then you walk before you can run.”
   ...“Yeah, but I know I can fly. I just need to catch a gust o’ wind.” P. 5, 6 (2 pts)

6. “It’s when we face for a moment the worst our kind can do, and shudder to
   know the taint in our own selves, that awe cracks the mind’s shell and enters
   the heart.”—Denise Levertov, p. 10 (2 pts)

Vocab Words (3 pts)
- inclusive
- hermetically sealed
- rubber checks
- paradox
- precariousness
- pyrrhic victory
- legitimized
- taint
Tattoos on the Heart: Introduction (pt. 2)

1. What happened to Homeboy Bakery in October of 1999? (1 pt)

2. Why did Homeboy Industries have lots of enemies initially? How did Fr. Boyle tell people to respond to the haters? (2 pts)

3. What happened when Lencho arrived to Homeboy Bakery after the fire? (1 pt)

4. Explain the significance of the word “great” in the story of Luis. (2 pts)
5. The homies asked Fr. Greg, “What’s the point,’ they’d ask, ‘of doing good...If this can happen to ya?” How would you have responded to their question? How can you apply this to your life? (2 pts)

6. Luis “embraced this goodness—his greatness—and nothing was the same again. And, really, what is death compared to knowing that? No bullet can pierce it.” How can you “embrace your goodness?” Why does Julian of Norwich see knowing we are “clothed in God’s goodness” as a life long struggle? (2 pts)

7. Hafez indicates that we all yearn for people to love us. What does Hafez think we need to do about that? (1 pt)
8. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, describes the role of “love” in our lives. What can you take away from the passage below? How does it apply to Fr. Greg’s lessons to the homies? (2 pts)

“4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 [a]bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails”

9. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

10. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Preface

1. Father Greg calls his stories about the homies “parables.” What is a parable and why would he consider these stories parables?

2. How (where) does Fr. Greg share his stories?

3. Why did Fr. Greg change his mind and decide to write this book?

4. What is this book not about?

5. What are the main themes in Tattoos on the Heart?

6. What is the “fundamental challenge” presented in these stories?

7. How does Fr. Greg “see” the homies?
8. Fr. Greg says, “In Africa they say ‘a person becomes a person through other people.’” What do you think this means?

9. What is the goal of Tattoos on the Heart?

10. Why is the book called Tattoos on the Heart?

“Ubuntu”

“Ubuntu [...] speaks of the very essence of being human. [We] say [...] "Hey, so-and-so has ubuntu." Then you are generous, you are hospitable, you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have. It is to say, "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours." We belong in a bundle of life. We say, "A person is a person through other persons."

[...] A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are.”

— Desmond Tutu, No Future Without Forgiveness
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 1 God, I Guess

1. Explain the quotation, “God can get tiny, if we’re not careful” (p.19). (1 pt)

2. Explain the quotation, “You are my Beloved, in whom I am wonderfully pleased” (p.20). (1 pt)

3. Explain the quotation, “God, I guess” (p. 21). (1 pt)

4. Explain the quotation, “Jesus chose to marinate in the God who is always greater than our tiny conception, the God who ‘loves without measure and without regret.’” (1 pt)

5. How do you see God? (1 pt)
6. How does God see you? (1 pt)

7. God loves each of us very much. How do you know that God loves you? (1 pt)

8. What does the poet Rumi mean when he writes, “Find the real world, give it endlessly away, grow rich flinging gold to all who ask. Live at the empty heart of paradox. I’ll dance there with you—cheek to cheek?” (1 pt)

9. Explain the quotation, “Behold the One beholding you and smiling...God is just too busy loving us to have any time left for disappointment” (p.28). (1 pt)
10. What does Scrappy mean when he says, “I have spent the last twenty years building a reputation for myself...and now...I regret...that I even have one” (p. 34)? What lesson do you learn from Scrappy? (2 pts)

11. Explain the quotation, “Where we stand, in all our mistakes and imperfection, is holy ground” (p. 35). (1 pt)

12. What happened to Fr. Greg’s mass with the Quechua Indians? How does he feel about it afterwards? (2 pts)
13. What happens between the old man and Fr. Greg after the mass? What is the moral of this parable? (2 pts)

14. We are called to marinate in the vastness and greatness of God. In what ways can we begin to do this more fully? Explain. (2 pts)

15. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

16. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 2 Dis-Grace

1. What does Fr. Greg mean when he says, “Suddenly, her shame meets mine. For when Carmen walked through that door, I had mistaken her for an interruption”? (1 pt)

2. Why do you think John Bradshaw claims that “shame is at the root of all addictions”? If that’s true, what would be needed for a “cure” to addiction? (1 pt)

3. “How do those who ‘sit in darkness’ find the light?” (1 pt)
4. Fr. Greg critiques the woman at Mass who prays for the sinners. In what context is he critical? What would his suggestion for us be? (2 pts)

5. “The absence of self-love is shame, ‘just as the cold is the absence of warmth.’ Disgrace obscuring the sun.” (p. 46) Fr. Greg compares love and shame to warmth and cold. In this context, explain the symbolism of the metaphor, as well as the significance of the sun. (2 pts)

6. What is the difference between guilt and shame? (1 pt)
7. Respond to Fr. Greg's question: “But do we really grow in favor with God? Did Jesus become increasingly more favorable to God, or did he just discover, over time, that he was wholly favorable?” (2 pts)

8. Fr. Greg describes his interaction with Lula. “You would have thought I had electrocuted him. His whole body spasms with delight to be known, to be called, to hear his name uttered out loud.” Why do you think Lula responds the way he does? What’s the “big deal”? (2 pts)

9. Simone Weil writes, “Those who are unhappy have no need for anything in this world, but people capable of giving them their attention.” In what ways do Fr. Greg and his staff provide the homies with positive attention? (1 pt)
10. Mother Teresa echoes Simone Weil when she says, “The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.” She then continues on to say that we should “do small things, with great love.” In what ways can you “do small things with great love” to combat the great poverty of loneliness plaguing our society and those around you? (2 pts)

11. Fr. Greg encourages us to see others as God sees us, and “God looks beyond our faults and sees our need.” How can we look beyond the faults of others to see their need? Give 3 examples. (2 pts)

12. Fr. Greg meets Napito and wants to know his real name. Like the story of Lula, what is the significance of this? Use the bible passage below for guidance. (2 pts)

“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!” (Isaiah 43:1)
13. Why does Fr. Greg conclude the chapter on Dis-grace with the story of Speedy? What’s the “moral” of his story? (2 pts)

14. Why do you think the title is “Dis-Grace” instead of “Disgrace?” (2 pts)

15. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

16. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 3 Compassion

1. Define, in your own words, sympathy, empathy, and compassion. (1 pt)

2. Fr. Greg refers to the kids as “dry, emaciated sponges hoping to catch a drop of adult attention.” Looking at the broader scope of the story, compassion, explain the symbolism of the sponge. (2 pts)

3. In the story of Betito, Fr. Greg asks us if Betito’s killers are “less worthy of compass than Betito.” Fr. Greg refers to the killers as sheep without a shepherd and “no less the real deal.” Do you agree with Fr. Greg? Are they worthy of our compassion? What would Jesus expect us to do? Explain your reasoning. (3 pts)
4. Twice now, kids have come to Fr. Greg to show him, with pride, their report cards. If you (or your parents) had seen that report card, how would you have responded? Why do you think Fr. Greg tells them he’s proud of them? (2 pts)

5. Fr. Greg references the parable of the prodigal son, as well as Jesus eating with sinners, in the story about Looney. Why? What is the story of the prodigal son? What is the message Fr. Greg is sending to Looney? To us? (3 pts)

6. What do you think Pema Chodron means when she writes that compassion’s “truest nature lies not in our service of those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them”? What is kinship? How are we in kinship with the homies? (3 pts)
7. Explain: “Jesus was not a man for others. He was one with others.” Provide examples. (2 pts)

8. How can you be a (wo)man with others? Provide examples. (2 pts)

9. Explain: “You know, most people around here think it’s finally a church.” What does the word “church” mean? What is the point of Fr. Greg’s story about the man and his disdain for what has become of Dolores Mission? (2 pts)

10. Explain the metaphor: “The stink in the church hadn’t changed, only how the folks saw it.” (1 pt)
11. What does Fr. Greg mean when he says the Beatitudes are a geography? (1 pt)

12. St. Francis said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.” How does Dennis model the teachings of St. Francis? Fr. Greg says Dennis was an equally changed man. How do you think he was changed? (2 pts)

13. Fr. Greg tells two stories of homies visiting other places. Pick one and explain how it teaches us about compassion and solidarity. (2 pts)
14. Explain the symbolism of “roofs being ripped off.” (2 pts)

15. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

16. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
1. What is baptism? What do water, oil, and flame each represent? (2 pts)

2. Fr. Greg suggests that George’s response to his brother’s death is different than others in a similar situation. How does George respond differently? (1 pt)

3. Fr. Greg attributes George’s response to his baptism. Why? (1 pt)
4. What is resilience? What fosters resilience (What helps someone become more resilient)? Explain. (2 pts)

5. Why does Fr. Greg suggest that Miguel and his friends watching a turkey cook in the oven is a sacred thing? (1 pt)

6. Explain the line, “Gang members plan their funerals, not their futures.” What affect does this notion have on their outlook on life? If you thought you would be dead before you turned 18, how might that change your outlook? Why? (3 pts)
7. What does “unconditional love” mean? What does it look like? (2 pts)

8. Danny gives Fr. Greg a hard time for “moving.” Fr. Greg uses the story to illustrate that we should not move. What is he referring to? Describe another story where Fr. Greg illustrates this concept. (2 pts)

9. What can we learn from Fabian’s story? (2 pts)
10. “You are the light of the world.” What does this mean to you, in your life? Support with examples. (2 pts)

11. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

12. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 5 Slow Work

1. Change: Robert Frost writes, “How many things have to happen to you before something occurs to you?” Greg Boyle says, “Change awaits us. What is decisive is our deciding.” Explain what they mean. Give a simple example of this concept in your every day life. How might this concept play out on a larger scale in your life? (4 pts)

2. Fr. Greg says “Ours is a God who waits.” What does this mean? Who/What is God waiting for? Why? (2 pts)
3. Explain: “There is nothing ‘once and for all’ in any decision to change. Each day brings a new embarking. It’s always a recalibration and a reassessing of attitude and the old, tired ways of proceeding, which are hard to shake for any of us.” How can this play out in our lives? (2 pts)

4. Explain and support the following quote with evidence from your own life: “There is no force in the world better able to alter anything from its course than love.” (1 pt)

5. Why do you think it was important for Fr. Greg to find “balance and perspective” and to take a break? (1 pt)
6. What does the light switch symbolize in Pedro’s story? What is the “moral” of his story? How does this play out in your life? (3 pts)

7. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

8. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
1. In the introduction, Fr. Greg suggests that we all long to be loved and accepted by others. At the beginning of Ch. 6 he suggests that we all desire to be in each other’s jurisdictions, spheres of acceptance, all the time. What does he mean? (1 pt)

2. What prevents us from letting people into our jurisdiction? How does this play out in the world of gangs? (2 pts)

3. What does the poet Rumi mean when he writes, “close both eyes to see with the other eye”? (1 pt)
4. Fr. Greg describes the waitress at Coco's as "Jesus in an apron." Explain why. (1 pt)

5. Fr. Greg suggests that "we seek to create loving communities of kinship... to counteract...[all] that keeps us apart." What is the Catholic Church's idea of community? What "keeps us apart"? Why is community so important? (2 pts)

6. Explain the symbolism and meaning of the Iguana stew story and the following quotation; "Everyone brought his flavor to this forbidden pot of iguana stew, and keeping anyone away and excluded was unthinkable to this band of prisoners. Alone, they didn't have much, but together, they had a potful of plenty." (3 pts)
7. Explain: "It always become impossible to demonize someone you know." (1 pt)

8. Explain: "We discover our true selves in love." (1 pt)

9. Describe God's jurisdiction. (1 pt)
10. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

11. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 7 Gladness

1. What makes you glad? How does being glad make you feel? (1 pt)

2. Fr. Greg, through Dorothy Day and Ruskin, encourages us to be “watchful for the hilarious and the heartwarming, the silly and the sublime.” Describe several of these moments that you have experienced recently in your own life. How do they make you feel? (2 pts)

3. Spider delights in watching his family eat, even if that means he doesn’t eat. How is that joyful for him? Where does gratitude play a role? Explain. (2 pts)

4. Socorro speaks up when Lupe describes a God that wants to “ship us off in handbaskets to Hades.” Do you recognize what God is not? Do you stand up for what God is really like when others try to say something different? Explain. (2 pts)
5. Fr. Greg repeatedly references Jesus by saying, “His ways aren’t our ways, but they sure could be.” Explain what he means. (1 pt)

6. Explain why Fr. Greg writes, “We have grown accustomed to think that loving as God does is hard.” What does he want to encourage us to do? (2 pts)

7. What does it mean to “Let your yes mean yes?” (1 pt)

8. Fr. Greg says that God creates us to be a delight and He hopes we join in. What does this mean? How can you join in God’s delight? (2 pts)
9. Provide 3 examples that illustrate Leon Dufour's statement: “I think God is the person you’re talking to, the one right in front of you.” (3 pts)

10. Explain what it means when Thich Nhat Hahn writes, “Our true home is the present moment.” Provide 2 examples to show your understanding. (2 pts)

11. Explain and provide 2 examples: “We begin to change the world by first changing how we look at the world.” (2 pts)
12. When Thomas Merton writes, “No despair of ours can alter the reality of things, or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there,” what does he mean? Explain and provide 2 examples to show your understanding. (3 pts)

13. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

14. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
1. What is *good* and what is *bad*? (1pt)

2. How would *most people* define success and failure? (1pt)

3. How do *you* define success and failure? (1pt)

5. Explain the metaphor of drowning used in the story of Freddie and Fr. Greg. How can you swoop in and save someone? (3 pts)

6. Give 2 examples of how Jesus stood with the outcast. Why was he criticized for doing so? (2 pts)

7. What does it mean to be faithful? (1 pt)

8. All Jesus asks is “Where are you standing?” and... “are you still standing there?” How would you answer His questions? (2 pts)
9. Was Jesus “successful” based on the standard definition? What made Jesus successful by our definition? Explain. (2 pts)

10. How do we remain “faithful and persistent in our fidelity even when things seem not to succeed?” Support with 2 examples (1 must be biblical, 1 personal). (2 pts)

11. Explain what Fr. Greg means when he writes, “For no amount of our screaming at the people in charge to change things can change them.” What does he imply we do to change things? (2 pts)
12. Is Fr. Greg’s statement true that “If our primary concern is results, we will choose to work only with those who give us good ones”? Support this claim with 3 examples (1 personal, 1 from Homeboy, 1 global). (3 pts)

13. Assuming that Fr. Greg’s statement above is true, what are the consequences to that way of thinking? (1 pt)

14. What does Fr. Greg suggest that we do with those least likely to succeed? (1 pt)
15. Explain why, “Jesus shows us that the desire for purity (nine times out of ten) is, in fact, the enemy of the gospel.” (2 pts)

16. What is the lesson learned in the story of Soledad? (1 pt)

17. Based on Mother Teresa’s teaching that “we are not called to be successful, but faithful” and Gen. Colin Powel’s definition below, do you think Fr. Greg is “successful”? Why? (2 pts)
   “There are no secrets to success: don’t waste time looking for them. Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty to those for whom you work, and persistence.”
18. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

19. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
Tattoos on the Heart: Ch. 9 Kinship

1. What do you think kinship is? (1pt)

2. How does Fr. Greg define kinship? (1pt)

3. Fr. Boyle suggests that with kinship as the goal, other things (justice, peace, etc.) fall into place. Do you agree? Support your opinion with examples. (2pts)

4. How is humor used to establish kinship? (1pt)
5. Fr. Greg says that a “wrong idea” has taken hold on our world...an attitude that suggests “there just might be lives out there that matter less than other lives.” Find 4 examples (2 from the book, 2 from your own lives) where you’ve noticed this attitude to be true. (2 pts)

6. Give 4 examples (2 from the book, 2 from your own lives) where Fr. Greg proves the above notion wrong. (2 pts)

7. What is Fr. Greg referring to when he says, “Nothing is the same again. No bullet can pierce this, no prison walls can keep this out. And death can’t touch it—it is just that huge”? (1 pt)
8. Fr. Greg says, “People call you the ________ long enough, you tend to believe them.” Have you ever experienced self-doubt or negative feelings about yourself because of something other people say about you? What makes you feel better? Conversely, have you ever felt really great about something because of the things people have said? What’s Fr. Greg’s point? (3pts)

9. What is the line from the song that Fr. Greg’s mom used to sing? What does it mean? (1pt)

10. In reflecting on his relationship with Chico, Fr. Greg says he was “privileged to spend [time] with him” and that his only regret was that he “didn’t spend more time.” What is Fr. Greg’s message to us? (1pt)
11. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Habits of Mind. (1 pt)

12. Pick one of the vignettes. Explain how one of the people in the vignette demonstrated one or more of the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs). (1 pt)
“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”
— Mother Teresa

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”
— Mother Teresa

“The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.”
— Mother Teresa

“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”
— Mother Teresa, A Simple Path: Mother Teresa

“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.”
— Mother Teresa

“I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is 'Abortion', because it is a war against the child... A direct killing of the innocent child, 'Murder' by the mother herself... And if we can accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love... And we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts...”
— Mother Teresa

“I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness.”
— Mother Teresa

“Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead.”
— Mother Teresa, A Simple Path: Mother Teresa
“Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.”
— Mother Teresa

“Hungry for love, He looks at you. Thirsty for kindness, He begs of you. Naked for loyalty, He hopes in you. Homeless for shelter in your heart, He asks of you. Will you be that one to Him?”
— Mother Teresa, *In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers*

“These are the few ways we can practice humility:
To speak as little as possible of one's self.
To mind one's own business.
Not to want to manage other people's affairs.
To avoid curiosity.
To accept contradictions and correction cheerfully.
To pass over the mistakes of others.
To accept insults and injuries.
To accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked.
To be kind and gentle even under provocation.
Never to stand on one's dignity.
To choose always the hardest.”

“Do small things, with great love.”
— Mother Teresa

*Reason, Season, or Lifetime*

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty; to provide you with guidance and support; to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be.

Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled; their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it. It is real. But only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

— Unknown
It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.

C. S. Lewis

“We must talk about poverty, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it.”
— Dorothy Day

“I believe that the first test of a great man is his humility. I don’t mean by humility, doubt of his power. But really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not of them, but through them. And they see something divine in every other man and are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful.” —John Ruskin

“Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.”
— John Ruskin

“The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.”
— John Ruskin

Gospel of Matthew (16:13-19)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, [h]Elijah; but still others, [i]Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” 15 He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are [j]the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon [k]Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I also say to you that you are [l]Peter, and upon this [m]rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth [n]shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth [o]shall have been loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16)

“The strategy of Jesus is not centered in taking the right stand on issues, but rather in standing in the right place—with the outcast and those relegated to the margins.”
“Close both eyes see with the other one. Then we are no longer saddled by the burden of our persistent judgments our ceaseless withholding our constant exclusion. Our sphere has widened and we find ourselves quite unexpectedly in a new expansive location in a place of endless acceptance and infinite love.”

Tattoos on the Heart Quotes

“I suppose Jesus walks into a room and loves what he finds there. Delights in it, in fact. Maybe, He makes a beeline to the outcasts and chooses, in them, to go where love has not yet arrived. His ways aren’t our ways but they sure could be.” (pg 155)

Mother Teresa told a roomful of lepers once how loved by God they were and a ‘gift to the rest of us.’ Interrupting her, an old leper raises his hand, and she calls on him. ‘Could you repeat that again? It did me good. So, would you mind… just saying it again.’” (pg 46)

“Author and psychiatrist James Gilligan writes that the self cannot survive without love, and the self, starved of love, dies. The absence of self love is shame, ‘just as cold is the absence of warmth.’ Disgrace obscuring the sun.”(pg 46)

“As Jesus scholar Marcus Borg points out, the principle suffering of the poor is shame and disgrace. It is a toxic shame of a global sense of failure of the whole self. This shame can seep so deep down.” (pg 52)

Sometimes resilience arrives in the moment you discover your own unshakeable goodness….And when that happens we begin to foster tenderness for our own human predicament. A spacious and undefended heart finds room for everything you are and carries space for everybody else.

Most memorable story?  
Lasting impression?  
What does the title mean to you now? What is “boundless compassion”? What has been tattooed on your heart?  
El rostro de Dios

-TOTH FINAL SERVICE PROJECT IDEA:  
-Donate Student Council Funds to Dolores Mission School Student Council to send one of their kids to TACSC