The Parable of the Workers and the Particularity of God's Love

God's freedom to be merciful to whom He will

Expecting our assumptions to be turned upside-down in surprising ways

God does not work in mass production models: no templates, no cookie cutter systems

Every God-human relationship is snowflake unique

Every human's utter uniqueness is guaranteed by a whole series of variables

Culture, time, place, genetics, personality, gifts, opportunities, events, relationships

And infinite God meets a distinctly particular person with a tailor-made love story

The parable of the shepherd leaving the 99 to find the 1: Matthew 18:10-14

The teaching of Psalm 139:1-6, 13-16

Peter and John with Jesus on the beach in John 21:20-23

The white stone with the new name for the one who overcomes: Revelation 2:17

The Impossibility of Correctly Judging Another Person's Story

Jesus and Paul prohibit the personal judging of others: Matthew 7:1-5; Rom 14: 1-23

Personal judging: stepping uninvited into another's tailor-made love story with God

Each person must say yes to God's bidding: Romans 14:4

Jesus is at work in every person's life (Christian or not!): Colossians 1:17; Romans 14:4

Logs and splinters: manage what you can manage, and leave all else to God

"We believe in training our thought lives to always believe the best of another person."

Because we trust the Lord's ability "to make them stand", we can assume the best.

There Are No Generic Forms of Love

Abstraction is mere sentimentality

Love: to freely and unconditionally lay down one's life to procure a true good for the beloved.

It is defined by its object (the true good of the other)

Peter and John give the true good to the paralytic at the gate: Acts 3:1-8

Don't be overwhelmed: you are not called to love everyone!

You are called to love with particularity those whom God grants you the privilege to love

"We believe in looking for/seizing opportunity to enter into one another's important moments"