

# A SACRED DIALOGUE ON PACE AND PACIFISM

*"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."*

Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr

## Stone Meditation 18 May 2008



Lent is often a time for Christians to give something up we like and to do without it for 40 odd days and nights. Doing without is a spiritual discipline.

Consider your stone to be racial discrimination.

What spiritual discipline would it take to give it up? Will you fall off the wagon and indulge when no one is looking? Will you take it back on Easter Sunday?

Hold your stone.

Feel its sharp edges as the edges of racial discrimination -- exclusion, joke telling, judgment, tokenism, objectification, Anglo-European standards of physical beauty.

What sharp edges have you felt - for yourself or for another?  
What edges have you cut others with?

Feel its weight -- the heavy weight of stereotyping, ignorance, colour blindness, superiority, colour politics, silencing, invisibility.

What heaviness have you felt -- for yourself or for another?  
What heaviness have you weighed others down with?

Grip your stone tightly. These stones were washed before they were placed on your seat. Yet, dusty residue continues to crumble away from the stone and stick to your skin.

If you give up your stone, will another stone take its place?  
Will you put on the ashes of the prophet and hurl stones that you call prophecies?

We are -- each one of us -- prophet and stone thrower.

**We envision a church where all people are equal, at all levels, as God intended!**

---

After the blessing before you leave, you are invited to give up your stone to (place on) the table - the table where none are excluded. Where all are welcome.

You will give up your stone but you will be taking away with you the dust from your stone on your hand, perhaps even on your clothes. It is a reminder that you carried a stone that is racial discrimination. You put the stone down rather than throw it. And that is a prophetic action.



Meditation Copyright © 2007-2008  
The United Church of Canada

