

February 27, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

LOOKING WITHIN

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Man’s sin is in his failure to live what he is. Being the master of the earth, man forgets he is the servant of God.”

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

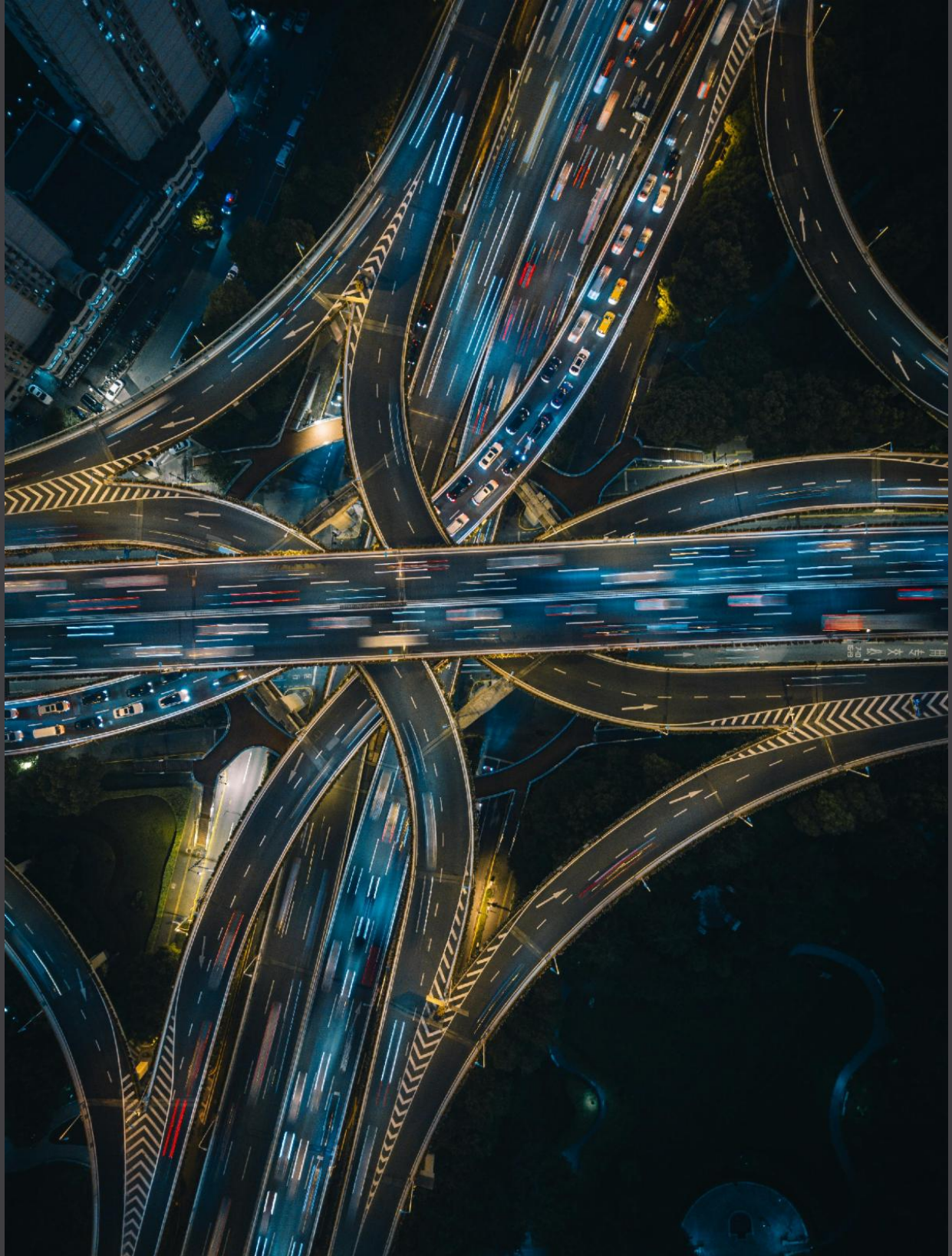
Reflection

Here we are, the Second Week of Lent, and there’s certainly quite a bit of scriptural conversation about sin in the daily readings. Perhaps the temptation is to look at the whole thing dualistically, good or bad, right or wrong. Now, on the face of things, we can clearly define actions or thoughts as good or bad, virtuous or evil, with consideration of a continuum of either. Without question, we all fall into moments of sin, and the hope is that God will forgive us if we are penitent. For me, it is helpful to have some perspective in such matters.

First, Scripture reveals the mercy and compassionate nature of God. A question to ask ourselves: do we believe we can be forgiven and that we are unconditionally loved by our Divine Creator? Do we view sin as something irreparable or are we hopeful that we can be absolved and that we are able to be and do better? Does our scale of self-judgment provide room for error and chances for improvement? Where does truth fit in with respect to our moral inventory and taking responsibility for our actions? A courageous as well as honest self-assessment invites compassion of self along with an accountability that is not frozen by intractability.

As mentioned in prior reflections, to repent infers that we return to or face back to God. In a covenantal relationship, there are obligations we hold in that bargain and there are consequences when we do not live into them. Perusing the readings for the first couple of weeks of Lent, there is some definite relational guidance.

To walk a righteous path obliges justice, mercy, forgiveness, humility and servanthood. The reality of living a virtuous life is not one-dimensional, and how it is activated through our life experience depends on so much. For example, for me, driving the freeways of Southern California opens up many opportunities for me to be charitable and forgiving. Ah, “lead me not in to temptation.”



Aerial Photo of Roads
Photo by Barry Tan

For Pondering

- How are you invited this Lent to self-examination and penance?
- What do you see as your growing edges?

- Where is God leading you?

For Prayer

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

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