

## *Sam Shoemaker Community / Recovery Lectio / Easter Five*

### *I Am the Way*

- *The Recovery Reading is from the book Sermon on the Mount by Emmett Fox. Fox was a popular writer among early AAs. He writes:*

One of the very oldest and most important symbols for the human soul is that of a building... Jesus was a builder – a carpenter – and he knew how to build.... On the shifting sands of the desert it is impossible to build anything at all, and so there many people have to dwell in tents. When these people intended to put up a permanent structure, they looked for a rock and build upon that. Now the Rock is one of the Bible terms for the Christ and the implication is very obvious. The Christ truth is the one and only foundation upon which we can build the Temple of the regenerated soul with safety. It is the one thing in existence that is absolutely true, never varying, never shifting – the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Resting on this foundation we will stand secure when the winds, and rains, and floods of error, of fear, of doubt, and self-hatred, beat upon us, beat they ever so hard; for we are founded upon the Rock. But as long as we are depending upon anything less than the Rock – upon will power, upon material security, upon the good-will of others, or upon our own personal resources – upon anything but God in fact, we are building upon sand, and great will be our fall.

- *Meditation Hymn: “Love Can Build a Bridge”* *by the Judds*

I'd gladly walk across the desert / With no shoes upon my feet  
To share with you the last bite / Of bread I had to eat  
I would swim out to save you / In your sea of broken dreams  
When all your hopes are sinkin' / Let me show you what love means  
*(Chorus) Love can build a bridge / Between your heart and mine*  
*Love can build a bridge / Don't you think its time? / Don't you think its time?*

I would whisper love so loudly / Every heart could understand / That love and only love  
Can join the tribes of man / I would give my hearts desire / So that you might see  
The first step is to realize / That it all begins with you and me *(chorus)*

When we stand together / Its our finest hour / We can do anything,  
*Anything! / Anything, Anything! / Keep believin' in the power (chorus)*  
Love and only love / Love and only love

- *Lectio:*

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*”

- *A Passage from the prophet Isaiah*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

**\*my chosen, in whom my soul delights;**

I have put my Spirit upon him,

**\*and he will bring forth justice to the nations.**

He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in all the earth;

**\*and all the world awaits his law.**

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,

**\*I have taken you by the hand and kept you;**

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

**\*a light to the nations,**

To open the eyes that are blind

**\*and bring the prisoners out from their dungeons**

I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other,

**\*nor my power to any graven images.**

Behold, the former things have passed away,

**\*and I make all things new.**

- *Closing Hymn: “The Great Storm Is Over”*

*by John McCutcheon*

The thunder & lightening gave voice to the night

The little, small child cried aloud in her fright

Hush, little baby, a story I will tell

Of a love that has vanquished the powers of hell

*Alleluia! The great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly!*

*Alleluia! The great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly!*

Sweetness in the air and justice on the wind

Laughter in the house where the mourners had been

The deaf shall have music, the blind have new eyes

The standards of death taken down by surprise

Release for the captives, an end to the wars

Streams in the desert, new hope for the poor

Little small children shall dance as they sing

And play with the bears and the lions in the spring

Hush, little baby, let go of your fears

The Lord loves his own and your mother is here

The babe fell asleep as the lantern did burn

The mother sang on till her Bridegroom's return

- John 14:1-14
- Isaiah 42