



Continue reading Chapters 1-4

Reflection questions for individuals or small groups

Today's Discussion Topics: Fear, Deception and Hate

1. In Thurman's day, disinherited people were religious people who found solace and connection within their own churches. Where do the dispossessed today—the homeless, the jobless, the alienated, and the socially isolated— find faith and connection?
2. How important is it to consider Jesus' social status as a minority, a poor Jew in the Greco-Roman world? How did that affect his life and teachings?
3. How easy can it be to turn to violence when you exist in a climate of deep insecurity and danger and feel no protection from society or authorities? Why didn't Jesus turn to violence?
4. What did Jesus say to his followers to cut through the fear?
5. Can the sense that you have personal worth or believing that you are a child of God help to banish fear?
6. Can you successfully compartmentalize deception so that its ill effects do not infiltrate and poison your entire being?
7. How does Thurman differentiate the fears of the dispossessed from the fears of society as a whole?
8. Why do the powerful keep the disinherited from a meaningful place in the social process?
9. Must we only be sincere to God?
10. Does true honesty break down the barriers between people?