

*Steek gerus 'n kers aan terwyl jy lees en aanbid.*

**Skriflesing :** Johannes 14: 1-14

**Tema :** Jesus as die Weg en die Pad waarop ons loop

### BROODJIES VIR DIE PAD

“Yes: I am a dreamer. For a dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world.”

— Oscar Wilde, *The Critic as Artist*

“I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.”

— Albert Einstein

“To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's.”

— Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

“I suspect the truth is that we are waiting, all of us, against insurmountable odds, for something extraordinary to happen to us.”

— Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

— Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

“The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum....”

— Noam Chomsky, *The Common Good*

“Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly.”

— Franz Kafka

“The truth isn't always beauty, but the hunger for it is.”

— Nadine Gordimer

### *What it Means to be a Christian*

Some think of a Christian as one who necessarily believes certain things. That Jesus was the son of God, say. Or that Mary was a virgin. Or that the Pope is infallible. Or that all other religions are all wrong.

Some think of a Christian as one who necessarily does certain things. Such as going to church. Getting baptized. Giving up liquor and tobacco. Reading the Bible. Doing a good deed a day.

Some think of a Christian as just a Nice Guy.

Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He didn't say that any particular ethic, doctrine, or religion was the way, the truth, and the life. He said that he was. He didn't say that it was by believing or doing anything in particular that you could "come to the Father." He said that it was only by him—by living, participating in, being caught up by the way of life that he embodied, that was his way.

Thus it is possible to be on Christ's way and with his mark upon you without ever having heard of Christ, and for that reason to be on your way to God though maybe you don't even believe in God.

A Christian is one who is on the way, though not necessarily very far along it, and who has at least some dim and half-baked idea of whom to thank.

A Christian isn't necessarily any nicer than anybody else. Just better informed.

### *Godganse nag*

*Êrens, in Elim  
onder 'n dunstreepmaan  
naby windpompe en bome  
het iets moois begin  
toe jou siel saam met  
fyn misreën oor fluitjiesriet  
van die hemel af kom  
om in my te woon.  
- Zebulon Kochk-*

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front  
by Wendell Berry

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,  
vacation with pay. Want more  
of everything ready-made. Be afraid  
to know your neighbors and to die.  
And you will have a window in your head.  
Not even your future will be a mystery  
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card  
and shut away in a little drawer.  
When they want you to buy something  
they will call you. When they want you  
to die for profit they will let you know.  
So, friends, every day do something  
that won't compute. Love the Lord.  
Love the world. Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.  
Denounce the government and embrace  
the flag. Hope to live in that free  
republic for which it stands.  
Give your approval to all you cannot  
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man  
has not encountered he has not destroyed.  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.  
Say that your main crop is the forest  
that you did not plant,  
that you will not live to harvest.  
Say that the leaves are harvested  
when they have rotted into the mold.  
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.  
Put your faith in the two inches of humus  
that will build under the trees  
every thousand years.  
Listen to carrion — put your ear  
close, and hear the faint chattering  
of the songs that are to come.  
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.  
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful  
though you have considered all the facts.  
So long as women do not go cheap  
for power, please women more than men.  
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy  
a woman satisfied to bear a child?  
Will this disturb the sleep  
of a woman near to giving birth?  
Go with your love to the fields.  
Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head  
in her lap. Swear allegiance  
to what is highest your thoughts.  
As soon as the generals and the politicians  
can predict the motions of your mind,  
lose it. Leave it as a sign  
to mark the false trail, the way  
you didn't go. Be like the fox

who makes more tracks than necessary,  
some in the wrong direction.  
Practice resurrection.

Padkaart (of Aanwysings)  
( met apologie aan Wendell Berry se Manifesto)

Maak woekerwins, eis jou pond.  
Neem slegs betaalde verlof.  
Kitskos bespaar tyd. Hou jou afstand van vreemdelinge  
en speel altyd veilig.  
Wees 'n toeskouer.  
Hou jou toekoms voorspelbaar.  
Jou denke binne die normale en net vir jouself.  
Bemarkers sal jou skakel, hulle weet beter wat jy  
benodig.  
Wees 'n verbruiker.  
Maar vrinne, doen tog iets wat nie berekend is nie.  
Dink aan ons liewe Here.  
Omhels die wêreld.  
Gee jou tyd verniet waar en wanneer jy kan.  
Skenk ruim weg en maak minder beter.  
Betoon deernis aan iemand wat dit nie sal waardeer  
nie.  
Wees hard op die Keiser, ons is Vryburgers.  
Staan op vir ons Grondwet.  
Hulle wat anders as jy dink, het dalk dieper besin.  
Jy weet nie alles nie, maak ruimte vir nuwe horisonne  
voordat jy jou rug daarop draai.  
Goeie vrae hoef nie altyd beantwoord te word nie.  
Belê in die toekoms. Plant 'n doringboom.  
Jy is net 'n rentmeester van alles wat voor jou leeftyd  
gesaai is. Jy hoef nie die vrug op jou arbeid te sien nie.  
Dooie blare voed die aarde, soms moet iets eers  
vergaan om lank daarna weer te ontkiem.  
Vetrou dat van jou dade later tot wasdom sal kom.  
Luister na die kraaie, ook hulle kekkel het iets om te  
vertel wat mettertyd 'n melodie van die toekoms kan  
ontsluit.  
Alles kom een of ander tyd tot 'n einde. Maar lag  
steeds oopmond.  
Om te lag verhef jou siel. Feite alleen mag nie vreugde  
demp nie.  
As jy 'n man is, sal jy weet hoe om jouself teenoor 'n  
beminde te gedra.  
Sal jou doen en late en gesels,  
iemand vertoue gee in 'n onbekende toekoms?  
Sal jou huismense gerus kan slaap op jou wagbeurt?  
Stap êrens heen, hand aan hand,  
kies 'n koelte boom en luister na 'n woordlose gesels.  
Sweer getrouheid aan jou diepste oortuigings.  
Wanneer buitestanders jou gedrag en denke wil  
bepaal, verander van rigting.  
Loop jou eie pad, juis wanneer ander jou koers wil kies.  
Jakkelse laat spore in die grond wat jagters verwar,  
laat dit wat jy agterlaat 'n misterie suggereer.  
Beoefen opwekking.

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## BROOD VIR DIE PAD

Geestelike Waardes: Manifes vir die beoefening van 'n 'opstanding'

'Practice resurrection.' Só lui die laaste versreël van Wendell Berry se gedig "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" (uit *The Country of Marriage*, 1973). Berry – 'n boer, digter, skrywer, en omgewingsaktivis van Kentucky in die VSA – stel dikwels in sy gedigte die persona van die "mad farmer" aan die orde. In "Manifesto" dui die "gekheid" van die boer aan die woord op 'n lewenshouding wat haaks staan op heelwat van die waardes van ons verbruikerskultuur en ons hedendaagse ekonomiese beskouinge. Die probleem met die heersende logika van die mark en die idee van profyt ten alle koste, so blyk uit die gedig, is dat dit ons liggaam en gees verkneg.

Daarom die oproep: "So, friends, every day do something / that won't compute. Love the Lord. / Love– the world. Work for nothing. / . . . Love someone who does not deserve it. / . . . Ask the ques–tions that have no answers / Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias."

Die uitnodiging "om opstanding te beoefen" is 'n kragtige gedagte, maar dit roep ook 'n aantal vrae op. Ons kan immers nie iemand uit die dood opwek nie. En die ervarings van donkerte en doodsheid in ons maak dat "gaan lê" eerder as "opstanding" dikwels voorop in ons gedagtes is.

Tog is dit goed – ook in hierdie tyd rondom Pasa in die kerklike jaar – om onself te herinner aan die logika van "opstanding". Die Duitse teoloog Jürgen Moltmann maak dikwels die punt dat om die geskiedenis en ons lewe te sien vanuit die gesigspunt van opstanding behels dat ons self ook deelneem aan 'n proses van opstanding. Hy skryf: "Geloof in die opstanding kan nie gereduseer word tot die beaming van 'n dogma of die registrering van 'n historiese feit nie . . . Dit behels deelname aan die kreatiewe daed van God."

Dalk vra hierdie deelname aan die lewe vanuit die perspektief van opstanding wel – soos Berry in sy gedig herinner – vir 'n "tikkie gekheid". Die gekheid van iets plant, bou en herstel wat vir ander of eers vir komende geslagte van waarde sal wees. Die gekheid van gasvryheid aan vervreemdes en vreemdelinge. Die gekheid van roekelose vrygewigheid.

Berry verbind verder die beoefening van opstanding met vreugde: "Laugh. / Laughter is immeasurable. / Be joyful though you have considered all the facts." Asook met vryheid. Daarom lees ons teen die einde van "Manifesto": "As soon as the generals and the politicians / can predict the motions of your mind, / lose it . . . Be

like the fox / who makes– more tracks than necessary,  
/ some in the wrong direction. / Practice resurrection."  
– RRV

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