

MESSIANIC PRACTICE

or

THE PRACTICE OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNION

Levels of Practice	Messianic Practice of Jesus	Practice of the Empire
Economic level <i>(production and circulation of goods)</i>	Gift Communion with the poor Superabundance	Accumulation Restricted wealth Debt Scarcity
Political level <i>(management, social power)</i>	Service Equality Truthful power	Domination Division into strata Violence Faithless power
Ethico-social level <i>(values)</i>	Freedom, toil Sororal/fraternal love Reign or household of God “New self” Life	Paralyzing fear Selfishness Empire “Old self” Death

Hugo Echegaray, *The Practice of Jesus*, translated by Matthew J. O’Connell, Maryknoll, New York, Orbis Books, 1980: 94, adapted.

Reflection Questions for table process:

- ✓ What image or metaphor of religious life speaks most to your heart and imagination?
- ✓ To paraphrase Gandhi, “we must be the change we wish to see in the world.” In what ways does your congregation/institute/ community embody messianic practice and/or the practice of the Empire? Internally? Externally?