

LENTEN STUDY "TATTERED AND MENDED" BY CYNTHIA RUCHTI, WEEK  
FOUR, CHAPTER ONE

The Art of Mending the Soul

Welcome all. It is good to see all of you. Today Beth Vanoli is serving as our tech person. She has also been a facilitator for one of our sessions. Give her a virtual hug! And a big thank you for all she does. Our other facilitators have been Cecelia Long and Lynn Baker. The planning team also included Marcia Florkey, Becky Ruple, and Linda Bales Todd. Thank you to all of them for making this Lenten study possible. You might want to use speaker view when we are all together and gallery view in our breakout rooms. Please do try to remember the number of your breakout room.

If you have your candle, please light it now. If you found an object that is a symbol of something you want to throw away, please place it where you can see it. Make yourself comfortable. You may want to put both feet on the floor, lower your shoulders, and take a deep breath in and out. Listen to this Native American flute music as we begin our time together.

Please join me in prayer. Breath of Life, we gather in this time of learning; we seek your grace as students of Jesus, the Word made flesh. As we step away from our busy lives to sit like Mary, give us ears to hear, eyes to see, hearts to learn how to love. Give us wisdom to listen to our sisters in their time of need. Give us humble hearts to transform the world. Amen

At the beginning of chapter one, Ruchti writes: People are tattered. Some say, "Then let's make tattered fashionable." But God invites us to mend. Our scripture today is Mark 10: 46-52 and will be read by Rebecca Leigh. As we think about this scripture, remember that Jericho as a place of victory for Israel, that this is one of the few times that the name of the healed is used and that the disciples seem to understand what is happening. So many times, they misunderstood but this time they seemed to get it.

We are reminded of all that we have shared during this study. Some of us are or have been shattered. We learned " The beauty of stained glass is both in the image it creates, and the brokenness from which it was born".

We have been broken and learned “the eye of creativity sees brokenness as pre-art”. We have been ragged and learned “Even missing pieces tell a story”. Now we will address mending. We are reminded that Bartimaeus threw away his coat. This was a big deal! For a homeless person, for this beggar, his coat provided a small sense of security. It was his protection from the weather, possibly his table for eating when he had food, his only possession. Just a few verses before this story of Bartimaeus, we read of the rich man who had trouble giving up his riches. Bartimaeus gave up everything.

He threw away his cloak.

As we go into our first breakout room, please introduce yourselves. Remember to give each one a chance to talk. There are no right or wrong answers. Enter expecting the best group you have met yet. Listen well. Share as you are led. Give each other grace and respect. Please do designate someone to share with the large group. Enjoy getting to know each other.

The questions are: What is it you need to throw away? This would be a good time to share your symbol. How are you encouraged? What do you want Jesus to do for you?

Break out for 20 minutes.

Large group sharing for 10 minutes.

Tattered and mended-we will be whole when we allow the healing to go as deep as the wound.

We will now go to our breakout rooms again for 15 minutes. The questions are: 1) Which chapter most spoke to you?

2) What will you take away from this study?

3) Can you agree to pray for each other in the days ahead? If so, please share how to pray for you and set a time each day or week or month to life each other in prayer. You might want to exchange email addresses ( just an idea, not a have to)

Return to large group and sharing.

End with any announcements and then Goodness of God.

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