

EVERGREEN
BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF
LOS
ANGELES

CHARACTER/WITNESS

LIVING IN THE NATURE OF GOD

2020
WINTER
SERMON
SERIES

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, *whatever is right*, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9





⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Positive



Negative



Rubin's Vase




Jehovah Shalom

The Lord Is Peace (Judges 6:23-24)

"Lord, you are _____.

Thank you for revealing that I am _____
because I have been created in your image.

Amen."

A photograph of a vast, flat green field under a heavy, grey fog. The horizon is obscured by the mist, and a single, thin vertical pole is visible in the distance on the left side. The overall atmosphere is quiet and ethereal.

Cataphatic Theology is “positive” statements of God.
For example, God is infinite.

Apophatic Theology is “negative” statements of God.
For example, God is not finite.



Asa-Jehoshaphat-Joram
Michelangelo; 1511

⁵ Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶ and said, “O Lord, God of our ancestors, are you *not* God in heaven? Do you *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? In your hand are power and might, so that no one is able to withstand you. ⁷ Did you *not*, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? ⁸ They have lived in it, and in it have built you a sanctuary for your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house, and before you, for your name is in this house, and cry to you in our distress, and you will hear and save.’

2 Chronicles 20:5-9



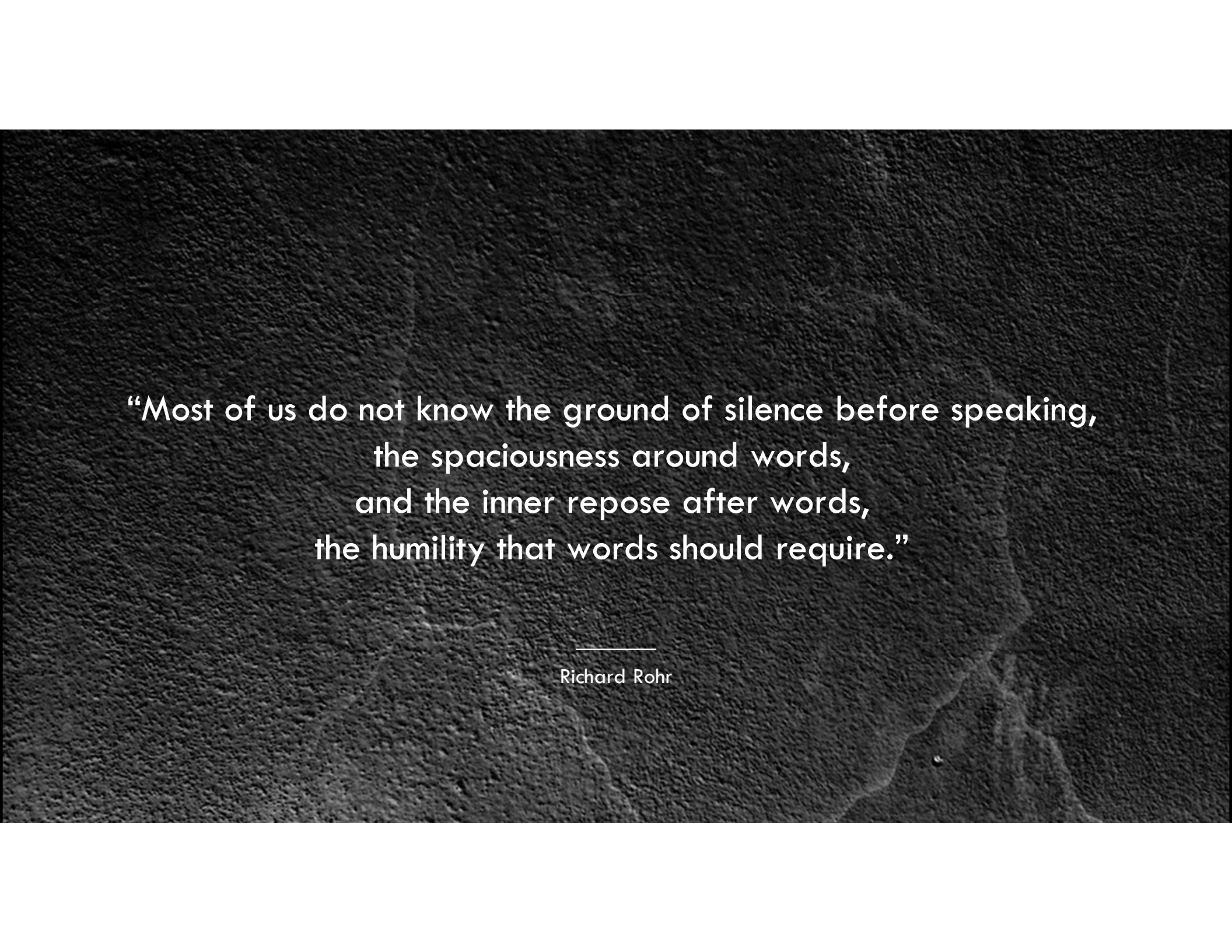
⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled

Matthew 5:6

A photograph of a calm sea under a grey, overcast sky. In the foreground, the wooden planks of a pier or dock are visible, leading towards the water. The water is dark and has gentle ripples. The horizon is visible in the distance, where the sea meets the sky.

“Christian existence is an open movement, a stretching out to an eschatological fulfillment that cannot be obtained through one’s own efforts in the present”

Helmut Koester



“Most of us do not know the ground of silence before speaking,
the spaciousness around words,
and the inner repose after words,
the humility that words should require.”

Richard Rohr



Silence

Grief over lack of righteousness