### Levels of Practice

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


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**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?