

Natural life with no parole

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [June 25, 2014](#) issue

That's what it's called the men tell me after our discussion of Matthew Five and what it means to turn the other cheek, or not, the latter being the path that brought them here. But what, I wonder is a "natural life"? Isn't it, really, the life led by everyone, those behind walls and those without, each of us living the one life given which is to say there's no parole for anyone. Yet listening to the men describe how they found Jesus, or rather He found them despite everything, or maybe because, I think of Paul on the road to Damascus, the sudden light, blinding, transforming, reforming, or then again this, a slow inner revealing, the shy gift of sweet snowdrops