

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 6: *SEEING JESUS*

INTRODUCTION – The Value of “V.I.M.”

Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

V _____
I _____
M _____

JESUS SCENE – Spiritual Sight Then & Now

John 14:1-9

John 20:24-29 VS. Acts 9:1-7 VS. Acts 10

Luke 1:11, 26-38; 2:8-15 VS. Matthew 1:20; 2:12-13

Mark 1:9-11

The most fundamental thing believers need is to have regular times
when they *rest in an experience of Jesus as real.*

~ Gregory A. Boyd, *Seeing Is Believing*

Jesus revealed truth through vivid _____ and _____.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE #6 – Envisioning

Proverbs 23:7; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18;
Colossians 3:2-3; Hebrews 12:1-2

Human imagination is not just a tool for inventing “imaginary” things and people, but also a tool for understanding and relating to REAL things and people. Our mind works by RE-PRESENTING the world to us in images.

When we keep our relationship to God abstract and conceptual only, we make it less “real” to us. Envisioning spiritual truth is the first step to engaging our EMOTIONS regarding spiritual reality, which helps us relate to God as real.

All abstract theological ideas must become incarnated into mental images in order to have maximum transforming power.

CONCLUSION – Setting Our Minds On The Spirit

Romans 8:1-11

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Talk about your reaction to this quote by St. Ignatius: *It is not knowing a lot but grasping things intimately and savouring them that fills and satisfies the soul.*
2. Take time to review the message, including reading any key passages that you want to review. Talk about whatever challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Romans 8:1-11**. a) What verse stands out the most to you from this passage? Why? b) What is the power of “**now**” in **verse 1** for making a difference in how we live? c) Paul says that the outside-in way of trying to enforce good behaviour through “law” has been replaced with something else. Describe the new way of living that Jesus brings. How is it different to the way of religion? (Use points from this passage, and any other Bible references you think of.) d) Paul insists that if we are *in Christ*, then his Spirit is *in us*. How might we expect the Spirit of Christ to partner with our imaginations? e) What pictures does the powerful truth of **verse 1** bring to mind? Describe them in vivid detail.

SO WHAT?...

4. Let’s try two types of meditation. a) First read the words of **Romans 8:1** and spend a few minutes thinking about their meaning. Let your mind examine each word and each concept and ask how it makes a difference in your life. b) Then take a few minutes to meditate on the mental pictures discussed in 3-e above. When finished, discuss what your reaction was each kind of meditation. What could be the value of each type of meditation in your life?

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