

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 8: *EATING SCRIPTURE*

Closer is He than breathing.

~ Alfred Tennyson

Somewhere along the way the movement of Jesus Christ became civilized as Christianity. We created a religion using the name of Jesus Christ and convinced ourselves that God's optimal desire for our lives was to insulate us in a spiritual bubble where we risk nothing, sacrifice nothing, lose nothing, worry about nothing.

~ Erwin McManus

The devout Christian of the future will either be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he will cease to be anything at all.

~ Karl Rahner

I have come to believe that the true mystics are not those who contemplate holiness in isolation, reaching godlike illumination in serene silence, but those who manage to find God in a life filled with noise, the demands of other people and relentless daily duties that can consume the self.

~ Kathleen Norris

Mystics without study are only spiritual romantics who want relationship without effort.

~ Dallas Willard

Based on the teaching and precedent of Scripture, it doesn't seem that God ever intended our relationship with him to consist of abstract information. It rather seems that in keeping with the way he designed our minds, he always intended to interact with us in concrete and dynamic ways.

~ Gregory Boyd

Ours is a pedestrian way, literally pedestrian: we put one foot in front of the other as we follow Jesus. And in order to know why he is, where he is going, and how to talk in his steps, we reach for a book, *the* book, and read it.

~ Eugene H. Peterson

I had always felt life first as a story: and if there is a story, there is a story-teller.

~ G.K. Chesterton

If the book we are reading does not wake us, as with a fist hammering on our skull, why then do we read it? ... A book must be like an ice-axe to break the frozen sea within us.

~ Kafka

In scripture itself God's purpose is not just to save human beings, but to renew the whole world. This is the unfinished story in which readers of scripture are invited to become actors in their own right.

~ N. T. Wright

When we open the Bible we are not interested in knowing more but in becoming more.

~ Eugene H. Peterson

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

~ Jesus