

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 12: *THE END OF THE BEGINNING*

Closer is He than breathing.

~ Alfred Tennyson

Someday, after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tide and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. Then, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.

~ Teilhard De Chardin

Perhaps a revolution is under way, a revolution of the Spirit that is about to shift our core energies *away from* arranging life to make it as satisfying as possible *to* drawing near to God. Jesus seekers across the world are being prepared to abandon the old way of the written code for the new way of the Spirit.

~ Larry Crabb

These days we must abandon Christianity in order to follow Jesus.

~ Hector Lasala

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

Religion is the archrival of intimate spirituality.... Religion is the shell that is left after the real thing has disappeared.

~ Doug Banister

A fundamental mistake of the conservative side of the Western church is that it takes as its basic goal to get as many people as possible ready to die and go to heaven. It aims to get people into heaven, rather than to get heaven into people.

~ Dallas Willard

If I intend to obey Jesus Christ, I must decide to become the kind of person who *would* obey. That is, I must find the means of changing my inner being until it is substantially like his, pervasively characterized by his thoughts, feelings, habits, and relationship with the Father.

~ Don Simpson

Whomsoever you follow, howsoever great he might be, see to it that you follow the spirit of the master and not imitate him mechanically.

~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

The goal of the Christian spiritual journey is not to become less human and more divine; it is to become more fully human. Salvation is not to rescue us from our humanity; it is to redeem our humanity.

~ David G. Benner

Never put happiness at centre stage. It is the by-product of a life of service, never the chief end of life. Happiness is not a right to be grasped, but a serendipity to be enjoyed.

~ Richard Foster

Christianity is an illusion if it only stays a religion of words and ideas, no matter how wonderful those may be.

~ John Michael Talbot

The spiritual life is first of all a life. It is not merely something to be known and studied, it is to be lived.

~ Thomas Merton

Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

~ Jesus