

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

ENCOUNTERING GOD ON LIGHT RAIL

TURN TOWARD THE BURN

Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1–6, John 4:1–10

FROM THE SERMON

“God is no longer present in ordinary awareness because ordinary awareness is no longer contemplative. We are living the unexamined life, and its price is practical atheism ... God will be present in ordinary experience when ordinary experience is fully open and not reductionistic.”

Ronald Rolheiser, *The Shattered Lantern*

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

Be present to those around you with confidence that God is up to something—and find a way to demonstrate His love.

PREVIOUS PRACTICES

Week 1 In the everyday life experiences, “be captured by the present moment.” Pay attention to what is actually happening right where you are, and whisper gratitude to God for the many gifts you observe.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THIS SERIES

TESTING THE WATERS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis

Gilead: A Novel, Marilynne Robinson

Letters by a Modern Mystic, Frank C. Laubach

The Sacred Journey: A Memoir of Early Days,
Frederick Buechner

An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith, Barbara
Brown Taylor

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life,
Tish Harrison Warren

DIVING DEEPER

The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God, Ronald Rolheiser

Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God, Dallas Willard

How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor,
James K. A. Smith