

January 29, 2017

The Contemplative Life

Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

Acts 17:27-28 (NIV)

²⁷ *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

²⁸ *'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

The Contemplative Life has much to do with the given-ness of our relationship to God.

Seeking God's Face

Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer that intentionally cultivates the discipline of seeking and finding God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*

² *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)

⁴⁴ *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

⁴⁵ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.*

⁴⁶ *When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*

The Contemplative Jesus

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

⁵ *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

⁷ *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Seeking God's Will and Heart

Ezekiel 36:24-27 (NIV)

²⁶ *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

²⁷ *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Ezekiel 11:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁹ *I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

This Week

Recommended passages to read and meditate on:

- Psalms 5:1-7
- Psalm 51
- Romans 12

Memorize:

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30
(NIV)