

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the parable of God: Learning to see

Christianity consists of the activation of the memory of Jesus Christ in thought and practice.

Hans Kung

Jesus ...not only proclaimed the parables' message: he lived it, and embodied it in his own person.

Joachim Jeremias

Stories don't define the truth: they describe it, or at least provide an opportunity to experience it. They alert us to mystery. Biblical stories offer us, not a propositional truth that we have to believe, but a dispositional truth, an attitude that will help us approach life with openness and expectancy. The biblical stories tap into our story: they touch us and resonate with the unique rhythm of our lives, the rhythm within, that rhythm that is the dance of the Community of Love, the Holy Trinity, in whose image we have been made.

Can you tell the "great story" in your own words –

words which activate your memory of actual experiences of God's goodness and love?

Is there gospel story (or stories) that captures for you the essence of the "great story"?

What stories particularly appeal to you- ones you return again and again to? What stories do you avoid?

*Give the Sacred the space and time
to come and sit with you
to become intimate with your story*

Noel Davis.

We commonly speak about Holy Spirit as the source of power. But in fact he enables us not by making us supernaturally strong but by opening our eyes.

John Taylor

We might say that the whole of life lies in the verb "to see"...To see or to perish.

Teilhard de Chardin

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

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God is not an idea but a reality who encounters us. It is as if in the circumstances of life “We find ourselves addressed, and addressed, we find ourselves”. Jesus told parables, which by-pass logic or reason, and deliberately “shock us” into “seeing” and “waking up”. Jesus is in this sense *the* parable of God opening us up to possibility. We don’t need to pin this man down, or wrap him up..

Take a few moments with a story about Jesus or parable of Jesus and imagine you there, in his presence.

Imagine him looking at you, speaking directly to you.

There is no need to impose or manipulate: simply let this encounter unfold.

Pay attention to what happens: what is said: and how you feel.

Many of the stories of Jesus suggest that we cannot see.

Can I admit to not seeing clearly?

Have I the courage to admit that I have enough sight to know that I am blind?

How can I be attentive, authentic, and responsible?

Do I realize that God is already doing something before I know it?

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