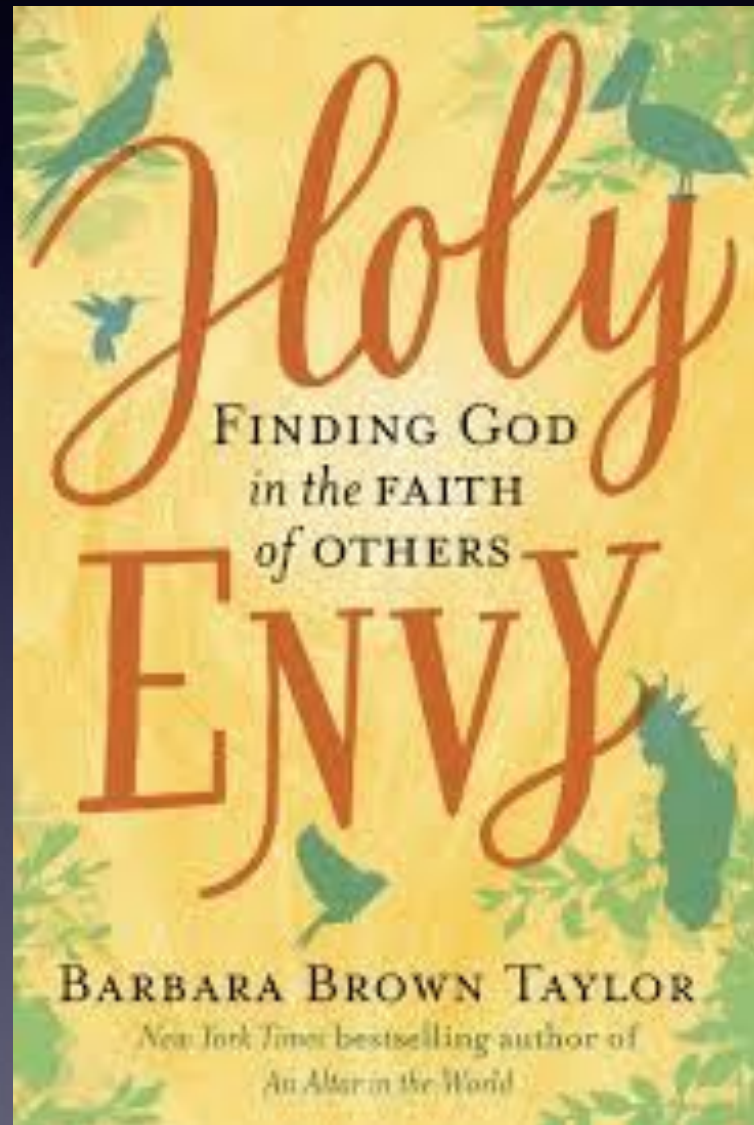


Holy Envy

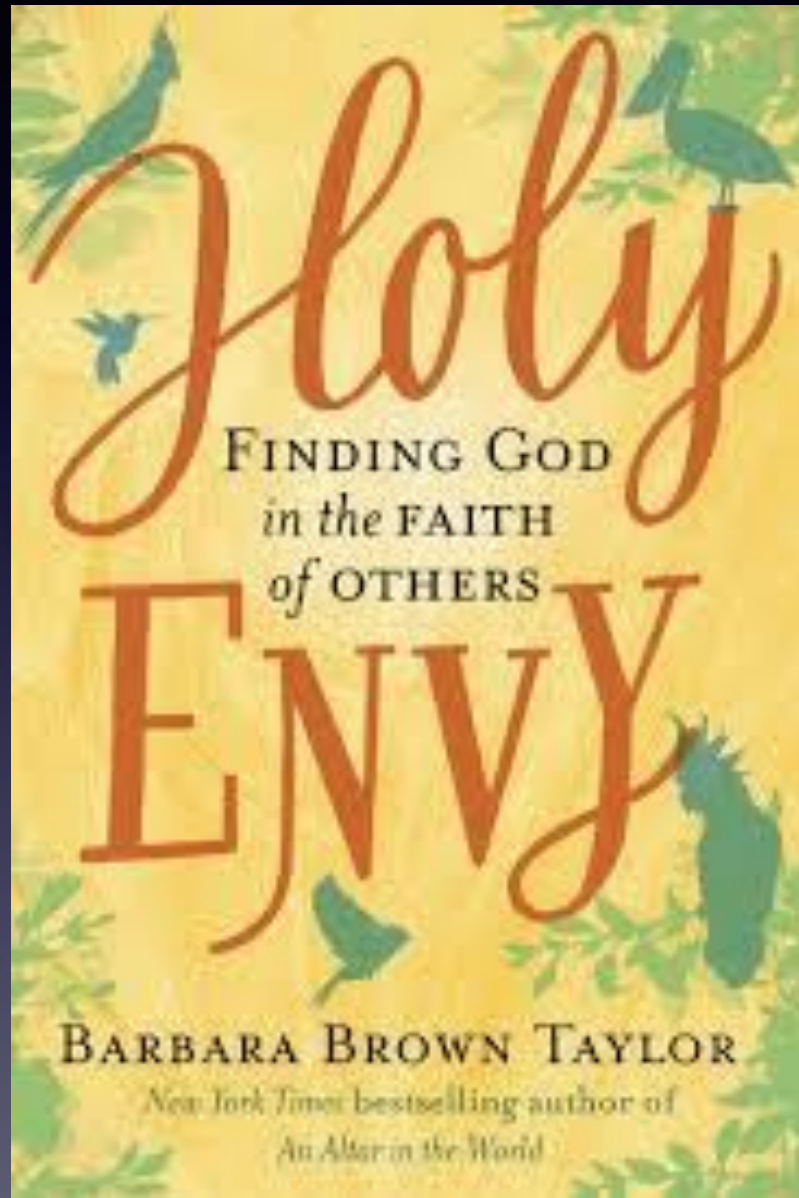


Holy Manners Bookstudy 43

ACTS
Fall 2019

St David's United Church
Calgary

Holy Envy - Session 8



Welcomes & Intros

Housekeeping

Avatamsaka Monastery

Reflection Sheet from Jin
Zhan, Dharma Master

2nd Group Visit 20 Nov

Opening Prayer



Opening Reflection

Presentation - Wayne

Session 8 - 11 Nov 2019

Ch 8: Failing Christianity

Ch 9: Born Again

Study Website

sduc.ca



Focus on Chapter 8

Failing Christianity

- We all start our Christian faith journey at some point and evolve from there. This affects what it means for us to be Christian and what Christian witness means to us.
- As we grow, we learn to move from seeing our faith from the "inside" to looking at our faith from the "outside."
- (or) from our initial and immature understanding of our faith to seeing how others understand our faith through encounter and observation of us.



Focus on Chapter 8 **Failing Christianity**

A course like this is committed to observing both the “inside” and the “outside” perspectives of faith. (p. 144).

Discuss



Focus on Chapter 8

Failing Christianity

- Have you ever felt you were the object of a conversion attempt?
- In retrospect, how did you feel about this?
- How did this shape your attitude about different kinds of Christians?

Discuss

Reaction to Classic Missionary Model.



Pearl Buck, 1892 –1973.
Photo by Karsh

American Novelist Pearl Buck grew up as a missionary kid in China. It caused her to compare -

- Christianity wedded to colonialism, certainty and power (versus)
- Christianity lived in the humble way of Jesus.

Discuss



Injuries from Evangelism

- “It was not until I began meeting people of other faiths in their most sacred spaces that I realized how bruised some of them were by Christian evangelism “(p. 148).
- "The shared consensus is that Christian evangelists are not very good listeners" (p. 148).



Injuries from Evangelism

- We need to find a new way to follow and share Jesus (p. 159)
- "We need to be prepared to listen rather than to talk." (p. 154)
- "The people who drew me to Christ never said a word about it." (p. 151)



Injuries from Evangelism

It caused Taylor to write -

"Christians do not have sole custody of the way to God.: (p. 152)

"Let God decide who is right," (p. 147)

Discuss



Injuries from Evangelism

It caused Taylor to write -

"Christians do not have sole custody of the way to God.: (p. 152)

"Let God decide who is right," (p. 147)

Discuss



Injuries from Evangelism

In conclusion of ch 8 consider and discuss this quote -

"A smaller, more humble version of the church with less property and few clergy pensions; and odd collection of people meeting here and there as they try to figure out what it means to follow Jesus in a world of many faiths; a body with his name on it that is more willing than ever to let HIM decide who is with him and who is not." (p. 157)

Discuss



Chapter 9 “Born Again”

Taylor revisits the key biblical chapter, used to emphasize that Christians need to be "born again" as the way to begin a new life in Christ.

Wayne reads John 3:1-10.

John 3:1-10 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’

⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^[d]

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?



Born Again

Taylor revisits this passage and gives it an interpretation that takes us beyond traditional thinking about our faith.

A key evangelical belief - important to many.

Reconstruct this passage for yourself.
"How can I be born again?" asks Nicodemus

(There is a time when human knowing runs out - implies Jesus)

"You do not know, not because you are stupid,
but because you are not God." (p. 167.



Born Again

Taylor summarizes -

"The Nicodemus story helps me to see I don't need to know all the answers to what it means to be a Christian." (p. 168).

--

Many faith traditions address the theme of human renewal of life. Christians are not unique in this, nor is their answer the only one.

Our developing exposure to other faiths and other guidance for living makes it harder for us to be so certain that the Christian way that guided us in the past is the only way.

This is a key learning from this chapter.



Born Again

At the same time, these challenges should not make us want to discard the Christian way we know best because of its failings or because it is not unique in its message.

“I can learn many positive things about my religion from people who are not part of it.” (p.171)

--

Discuss



Born Again

and -

"Holy Envy" can also be a circular process.

As we relate to people of other faiths, we
discover what they envy about our faith..
(p. 171)



Born Again

A Closing Thought -

We move beyond trying to be right.
We discover more about what we have in common,
not what separates us.

"Once you give up trying to find out who is right,
it is possible to find neighbors everywhere you
look." (p. 171).





Time now. Please return.

Part 2

TEDxRainier - Interfaith Amigos - 13m

Buddhist Monastery Visit - Aspects of Holy Envy

Buddhist Chants & Peace Music - Hanshan Temple - 2m

Discussion - Dialogue not Dominance - a new attitude
in history



TEDxRainier - Interfaith Amigos

Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman

Their work is dedicated to supporting more effective interfaith dialogue that can bring greater collaboration to the major social and economic issues of our time. 13m

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soC_MSUo5Qo



Discussion

Considering Buddhism

What aspects might be aspects of Holy Envy?



Buddhist Chants & Peace Music - Hanshan Temple

2m excerpt of 10m

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcYLO8haYas>

Closing Discussion



Dialogue not Dominance

Faithful not Sectarian

Spiritual not Religious

Best not Worst

Next Readings

Session 9 - 18 Nov 2019

Ch 10: Divine Diversity

Ch 11: The God You Didn't Make Up

Study Website

sduc.ca

Closing Reflection

Brenda