

Creative Transformation



"We'd rather have a controlled dead God than a lively chaotic God – we have a funeral for Jesus every Sunday."

– Yvette Flunder

1st break:

What is "transformative spirituality"?

Why does Fox feel that it's appalling that in the West creativity is not honored? What is the importance of creativity?

According to Brueggemann, why is "You don't get it, do you?" one of the saddest lines of scripture?

2nd break:

Why is determining what is "so important that we are willing to give up everything" so critical for understanding the message of Jesus?

For John Bell, there are "no reserved areas" in his following Jesus. Explain.

3rd break:

Why are the true marks of discipleship best understood as being whole, real, loving, and inclusive?

When Paul appeals to the Christians in Rome to resist conformity with the world, what was he challenging them to do? Does that apply to us today?

According to Carcaño, what are some of the goals to be achieved in transforming the world?

General Reflection:

What do you find most helpful or interesting from the material so far?

What are the implications for your personal spiritual journey? For Christianity as a whole?

Words of Wisdom

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

– Paul, *Romans 12:2*

When Paul appeals to Christians in Rome to resist conformation with the world, he challenges them to first renew their minds. In so doing they will be so changed that they will be virtually unrecognizable. Paul uses the Greek word from which we also get the word “metamorphosis,” a term more likely found in science books referring to caterpillars and butterflies, tadpoles and frogs.

Read Romans 12.1-8

Try it

Today, film has become perhaps the most profound medium ever available to storytellers. As modern-day parables, movies help us delve deep into the most stirring, disturbing, and inspiring aspects of life.

“Movies and television shows are our modern myths; through them we work out who we are and negotiate the problems of modern life.”

– Bernard Brandon Scott, *Hollywood Dreams & Biblical Stories*

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat speak of “Befriending” films and suggest the viewing of movies as part of one’s spiritual practice. The moment when the lights go down can be a “sacred interlude” of preparation. Being fully attentive to what is on the screen can offer an experience of “mindfulness.” Along with a number of other practical suggestions, the Brussats urge moviegoers to:

“Explore the mythical overtones of drama that transcend the confines of our personal worlds and introduce us to the universality of human experience. Think of the film as a passport that gives you access to other cultures. Celebrate stories that take you to new places and break down the walls that all too often separate us from other peoples.”

– Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat
www.spiritualityandpractice.com/films

Spirit Practice

As we pursue the growth we're called to seek in order to reach our full potential, it may be helpful to remember what Taoism teaches its adherents: so long as bamboo is alive and growing it is pliable and flexible. Once it dies, however, it becomes brittle and is easily snapped. Creativity and transformation are principles that stave off our tendency to become hard and brittle, and open us instead to the transformative power of God's unconditional love and grace.

Read and meditate upon the following:

*"O God, make me discontented with things the way they are in the world,
and in my own life.*

Make me notice the stains when people get spilled on.

*Make me care about the slum child downtown, the misfit at work,
the people crammed into the mental hospital,
the men, women and youth behind bars.*

*Jar my complacency, expose my excuses,
get me involved in the life of my city and world.*

*Give me integrity once more, O God,
as we seek to be changed and transformed,
with a new understanding and awareness of our common humanity."*

– Robert Raines, *Creative Brooding*