

St. Tom's Women's Group
Discussion Questions for Jesus Today, Session 1 pp. xvii-xx, 1-46

Preface

1. On page xvii, Nolan says, "There are Christians who think that one can take Jesus seriously without taking too much notice of what is happening in the world around us." Can you think of a few examples that explain what he means? How might that description fit you?
2. Nolan says the focus of his book is spirituality, not theology. (pg. xviii)How does he define/distinguish them?

Chapter 1

3. Pp 1-2 The signs of the times are pointers to the future that can challenge us, according to Nolan. Challenge us for what purpose? What might some of those signs of the times be?
4. In chapter 1, Nolan defines/discusses modernity, postmodernism, fundamentalism, and neo-conservatism. Where did you see yourself fit in these categories? How did this help you understand people who represent the other categories?
5. After reading pp. 7 – 14, how would you describe your spirituality?

Chapter 2

6. How does Nolan's description of the development of individualism and the ego resonate within you? Can you see the ego at work in yourself? your children? Your place of work?
7. How does individualism lead to global warming? What's the connection?
8. What are some forms of group selfishness or domination that result from individualism?

Chapter 3

9. What is your reaction to Nolan's definition of globalization, pp. 30-31?

10. How do you feel about his description of the great American empire?

11. What hope does the World Social Forum have to offer the world? (pp. 34-35) How might it change the globalization of power?

Chapter 4

12. How did the Industrial Revolution contribute to a division of body and soul? (pp 37-38)

13. How does the new science change the mechanistic science? (pp. 38-41)

14. What do "chaos theory" and holons bring to the new scientific thinking?

15. In what ways does the new science change the relationship between science and religion? (pp. 44-46)