

St. Tom's Women's Group Discussion Questions for Jesus Today,
Section IV pp. 137 - 192 Meeting on Wed. August 11, 2010 7:00 – 8:30 pm

IV Jesus and the Experience of Oneness
From the preface:

1. How does oneness differ from unity, union, reconciliation, harmony and peace?

Chapter 13 Oneness with God

2. What images of God were you taught? How did they affect your relationship with God?
3. Do you agree that God is a mystery? Is God real for you? How do you experience God?
4. How did Jesus experience God?
5. Nolan says that God is not just close to us, but actually one with us. How does that feel to you? How did it impact Jesus' relationship with God?
6. While we don't really understand why there is suffering, what does Nolan suggest we can do to help lessen it? (Pp 147-148)

Chapter 14 One with Ourselves

7. Do you agree with Nolan that many people do not love themselves? How have you struggled with loving yourself? What has helped you? What has hindered you?
8. How is self love different from selfishness and self centeredness? (Pp 148-149)
9. Genuine love is unconditional. How can I ever learn to accept my faults and weaknesses so that I can truly accept myself?
10. What surprised you from the section "Loving One's Body?" (Pp 150-152) How is it different from you what have been taught/learned throughout your lifetime?
11. Nolan talks about finding the "real" you through God working in you, revealing truths about you. How is this different from our culture's concept of the "real" you?
12. Explain how selfish individualism is different from genuine uniqueness.
13. How might you learn to embrace death? What would help you come to that level of comfort with death?

Chapter 15 One with Other Human Beings

14. What is the clue to loving our neighbor? (Pg. 158) What is required?
15. How does our ego interfere with our relationships?
16. What 3 points does Nolan develop from Matthew's story of the final judgment?

17. Describe the bond of solidarity or kinship. (Pg. 161)
18. How is empathy more than or different from compassion? (Pp. 163-164)
19. What is meant by “the common good?” (Pg. 165)
20. How has the “sharing community” changed or been diluted since Jesus’ time? (Pp. 166-167)

Chapter 16 One with the Universe

21. How or when have you experienced a oneness with the universe? Watching the waves hit upon the shore? Sitting in the dark watching the stars?
22. Is the idea of a continuously evolving universe new for you? (Pg. 171) What do you think about it?
23. How does the Big Bang theory attribute creation to God?
24. Unity, diversity and subjectivity are dynamics of the new understanding of the universe. Explain each briefly. (Pp. 172-176)
25. What’s the relationship between God and the universe? (Pp. 176-179)

Chapter 17 Radically Free

26. How did freedom enable Jesus to NOT be afraid?
27. How does trust enable our freedom?
28. Why are people afraid of freedom? Wouldn’t everyone want to be free? What does Nolan say?
29. How does radical freedom allow/enable us to do God’s will? What if God’s will isn’t what we want to do?
30. How is our personal transformation dependent upon God’s work within us/ through us? Sounds simple enough the way Nolan talks about it. But what about it, really in your life? Is it possible?

Overview of the book

What are a few things/ideas that really struck you while reading this book?

How did our discussions impact your understanding of the book and its concepts?

Are there any life changes you’d like to make because of what you’ve learned from the book? What might they be?

Has this been a worthwhile experience for you?

Would you consider being part of another book discussion?