

Biblical Spirituality Preview Sheet

Diocesan Theological Institute

“The most profound interpretation of Scripture comes precisely from those who let themselves be shaped by the word of God by listening, reading and assiduous meditation... I express my heartfelt hope for the flowering of a new season of greater love for sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God, so that their prayerful and faith-filled reading of the Bible will, with time, deepen their personal relationship with Jesus.”

Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, #48, #72

I find this statement from Pope Benedict to be a perfect inspiration for our study of Biblical Spirituality. Honestly, it's not enough to know what's in the Bible; universities are known to have agnostics and atheists teaching the Scriptures. Doesn't make much sense does it? These DTI sessions intend to explore exactly that which Pope Benedict suggests: how our prayerful and faith-filled reading and study of Scripture can impact our personal relationship with Jesus.

These two Saturdays (9/14 and 9/28) will address these general topics:

1. The Power of the Word of God in Scripture
2. What is Biblical Spirituality?
3. Theme 1: God Who Saves
4. Theme 2: God is Sovereign
5. Theme 3: God's Elusive Presence

Some questions to reflect on as you prepare for this class:

1. *When has the course of your life been altered in response to a passage from Scripture?*
2. *How has God been a Savior in my life?*
3. *What is holiness? Do you consider yourself to be holy?*

If time permits, please read and reflect on the following:

The Book of Exodus 1-24;

The Gospel of Luke 1:46-55, 4:16-30, 7:36-50, 15:1-32, 19:1-10

Pope Francis, *Rejoice and Be Glad/Gaudete et Exsultate*; available online at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

I look forward to our discussion on Biblical Spirituality on two Saturdays: September 14 and 28 at the Diocesan Administration Building in Rockford. May God guide your prayerful preparation.

John McGrath