

Daily Inspirational Journal

Volume Three

Compiled by Bruce Rickard



Introduction:

Ralph Waldo Emerson was one of the most influential writers and thinkers of the 19th century in the United States. He wrote in his Journals in 1836,

“Make your own Bible. Select and collect all the words and sentences that in all your readings have been to you like the blast of a trumpet.”

Emerson was not suggesting that you make up your own religion. He meant to encourage the readers to follow the Renaissance practice of compiling favourite quotes, poems, letters, and passages into a simple book to be used for reflection and inspiration.

The Daily Inspirational Journal is a compilation of quotes from the English Standard Version of the Bible and books I have been reading.

The word inspiration, which comes from the Latin *inspiratio*, means ‘breath of God’ or ‘divine guidance.’

An inspired life is a God breathed life, resounding with meaning and purpose.

Without inspiration life becomes dreary and predictable. Everything we tackle drains us, leaving us physically spent and emotionally exhausted.

Reading is transformative. When we read, we open ourselves to thoughts and ideas that are invested with meaning, that have the power to alter the way we think and shape the way we live.

Words are inspirational:

- The words we read bring recognition, making us glow on the inside.
- The words we read bring enlightenment, opening our eyes to new possibilities.
- The words we read reveal new horizons, allowing us to touch the stars.
- The words we read bring hope, calming the restless spirit and creating a way forward.

Kevin Kaiser believes all inspiration originates beyond the mind. He says,

‘You can’t think your way to inspiration any more than a sail can make the wind blow. The mind can’t understand inspiration in the same way a sail can’t understand the wind. Despite this, the sail can still be used to gather and to harness it.’

It is my hope the Daily Inspirational Journal will nurture and nourish, galvanising your mind, stimulating your emotions, and firing your imagination.

Book List:

‘Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.’

The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett

The Bookseller of Kabul – Asne Seierstad

The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes

Teaching a Stone to Talk – Annie Dillard

The Humans – Matt Haig

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge

Jack - Marilynne Robinson

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

Lincoln in the Bardo – George Saunders

Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley

On the Brink of Everything - Parker J. Palmer

Slow Productivity - Cal Newport

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride

I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors - Bernice Eisenstein

The Angels of Morgan Hill - Donna VanLiere

Apricot Jam & Other Stories - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The Circle of Silence - Shirley Shackleton

***When The Heart Waits* - Sue Monk Kidd**

***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

***Tiny Beautiful Things* - Cheryl Strayed**

***The Diary of a Young Girl* - Anne Frank**

***A Step of Faith* - Richard Paul Evans**

***Miles to Go* - Richard Paul Evans**

***Discernment* - Henri Nouwen**

***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

***Before the Swallows Come Back* - Fiona Curnow**

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

***Grey Bees* – Andrey Kurkov**

January

1

‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.’ Acts 1:8 (ESV – English Standard Version)

‘Blessed is the man... who delights in the law of the Lord.’ Psalm 1:1-2 (ESV)

‘He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.’ **Jim Elliot**

‘The Queen read, of course, as one did, but liking books was something she left to other people. It was a hobby, and it was the nature of her job that she didn’t have hobbies.’ **The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett**

‘Her job was to take an interest, not to be interested herself.’ **Alan Bennett**

2

‘The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds.’ Genesis 1:12 (ESV)

‘Male and female he created them.’ Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

‘Once I start a book, I finish it. That was the way one was brought up. Books, bread and butter, mashed potato – one finishes what is on one’s plate. That has always been my philosophy.’ **The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett**

Ultimatums were delivered in the palace library, lines drawn, prayer books compiled, and marriages decided upon, but should one want to curl up with a book the library was not the place.’ **Alan Bennett**

‘What she was finding was how one book led to another, doors kept opening wherever she turned.’ **Alan Bennett**

3

‘Sin is crouching at the door.’ Genesis 4:7 (ESV)

‘Blessed are all who take refuge in him.’ Psalm 2:12 (ESV)

‘The Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skin and clothed them.’ Genesis 3:21 (ESV)

‘God always allows us to feel the frailty of human love, so we’ll appreciate the strength of his.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Briefing is not reading. It is the antithesis of reading. Briefing is terse, factual, and to the point. Reading is untidy, discursive, and perpetually inviting.’

The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett

‘Books are not about passing the time. They are about other lives, other worlds.’

Alan Bennett

‘I read, I think, she said to Norman, because one has a duty to find out what people are like.’ **Alan Bennett**

4

‘At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.’ Genesis 4:26 (ESV)

‘Salvation belongs to the Lord.’ Psalm 3:8 (ESV)

‘The appeal of reading, she thought, lay in its indifference; there was something lofty about literature. Books did not care who was reading them or whether one read them or not. All readers were equal, herself included.’ ***The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett***

‘I think literature, she wrote, as a vast country to the far borders of which I am journeying but cannot possibly reach.’ **Alan Bennett**

‘Can there be any greater pleasure, she confided, than to come across an author one enjoys and then to find they have written not just one book or two, but at least a dozen?’

Alan Bennett

5

‘The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.’ Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

‘The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off.’ Acts 2:39 (ESV)

‘Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.’ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

‘She began her Christmas broadcast with the opening paragraph of the Tale of Two Cities (It was the best of times. It was the worst of times).’

The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett

‘He had been writing his memoirs for twenty years and hadn’t even written fifty pages.’

Alan Bennett

6

'Enoch walked with God.' Genesis 5:22 (ESV)

'And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.' Acts 2:47 (ESV)

'Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' Matthew 3:10 (ESV)

'Reading is a muscle; one she had seemingly developed.'

The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett

'In the darkness it came to the Queen that, dead, she would exist only in the memories of people... Reading could not change that – though writing might.' **Alan Bennett**

'You don't put your life into your books. You find it there.' **Alan Bennett**

7

'This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.' Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

'My eye wastes away because of grief.' Psalm 6:7 (ESV)

'Grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.' Acts 4:29 (ESV)

'One has never written a book before, but one hopes that it will – she paused – transcend its circumstances and stand on its own.'

The Uncommon Reader – Alan Bennett

'What the sounds and smell do not divulge, gossip supplies. It spreads like wildfire in the neighbourhood, where everyone is watching one another's morals.'

The Bookseller of Kabul – Asne Seierstad

'In Afghanistan, a woman's longing for love is taboo. Love has little to do with romance; on the contrary, love can be interpreted as committing a serious crime, punishable by death.' **Asne Seierstad**

8

'The windows of heaven were opened.' Genesis 7:11 (ESV)

'What is man that you are mindful of him?' Psalm 8:4 (ESV)

'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' Genesis 22:14 (ESV)

'Jesus must be the sun around which the solar systems of our lives find their orbit.'

Scott Sauls

‘War was a central theme in maths books too. School books – because the Taliban printed books solely for boys – did not calculate in apples and cakes but in bullets and Kalashnikovs.’ ***The Bookseller of Kabul – Asne Seierstad***

‘Do you know what is our problem? We know everything about our weapons, but we know nothing about how to use a telephone.’ **Asne Seierstad**

‘To say nothing is to give one’s consent.’ **Asne Seierstad**

9 ‘Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord.’ **Genesis 6:8 (ESV)**

‘The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed.’ Psalm 9:9 (ESV)

‘You are the salt of the earth.’ Matthew 5:13 (ESV)

‘Weak tendrils of hope bloomed from the ash of her defeat.’

The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes

‘Books are a way we leave a mark on the world. They say we were here, we loved and we grieved and we laughed and we made mistakes and we existed. They can be burned halfway across the world, but the words cannot be unread, the stories cannot be untold.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘Fire as fierce as the flames that destroyed these very books had crept into her voice.’
Brianna Labuskes

10

‘And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great signs and wonders among the people.’ Acts 6:8 (ESV)

‘The faithful have vanished from among the children of man.’ Psalm 12:1 (ESV)

‘Anonymity became a release, the only place to which I could turn.’

The Bookseller of Kabul – Asne Seierstad

‘The library’s founder, Alfred Kantorowicz, had insisted that any books and documents that helped inform their readers about Hitlerism and fascism were worth their place in the stacks. Knowledge was power. And if more people outside Germany read Hitler’s manifesto he’d said, they wouldn’t be so eager to appease the madman.’

The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes

11

'The helper of the fatherless.' Psalm 10:14 (ESV)

'Let your light shine before others.' Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.' Acts 7:51 (ESV)

'She touched the mezuzah that hung beside her door, a recent addition. Despite their more secular bent, her parents had one also, the Hebrew verses from the Torah carefully tucked into the wooden casing.

'It's a statement, though, isn't it?' One of her friends from the library had said. 'It says this is a Jewish household. And it is a symbol we get to decide to put on ourselves.'

The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes

12

'The Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands.' Acts 8:18 (ESV)

'Light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.' Psalm 13:3 (ESV)

'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.' **Martin Luther King Jr.**

'She thought of all the ways Germany marked its Jewish citizens so that they would feel less than. The papers, the registries, the graffiti on shop windows marking them as Jewish owned.' ***The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes***

'The way to judge people wasn't to look at how they acted toward people they wanted to impress; it was to look at the way they treated those who could do nothing for them.'

Brianna Labuskes

13

'The small things were what made a person.' Brianna Labuskes

'The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight.' Genesis 31:49 (ESV)

'And the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away.' Acts 8:39 (ESV)

'Words cannot be unwritten simply because you burn them. Ideas cannot simply be erased. People cannot be erased... Burning books about things you do not like or understand does not mean those things no longer exist.'

The Librarian of Burned Books – Brianna Labuskes

‘The time and distance that came with history had a way of letting people forget.’

Brianna Labuskes

‘It is not failure that we should fear but inaction.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

14 **‘No season is ever wasted in God’s timeline.’**

‘The fool says in his heart, *‘There is no God.’* Psalm 14:1 (ESV)

‘No one can serve two masters.’ Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

‘Books were what gave her a big life; they let her into a thousand different worlds where she could be a thousand different people.’

***The Librarian of Burned Where they burn books, they will also u* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘Even in the darkest days, in their deepest grief, at their most exhausted, humans found a way to create moments that were so fundamentally hopeful that they couldn’t help but inspire you to take one more step forward. And then one more.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

15 **‘Wild hope for the future.’**

‘Honour those who fear the Lord.’ Psalm 15:4 (ESV)

‘O you of little faith.’ Matthew 6:30 (ESV)

‘The writing life is healthy so long as you keep reading.’ **Scott Cairns**

‘What were books, what were stories, if not a thousand wonders.’

***The Librarian of Burned Books* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘Where they burn books, they will also ultimately burn people.’ **Heinrich Heine**

‘The good fight isn’t always about winning. Sometimes it’s a reminder to the world that there are people out there who are willing to try.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘Even our darkest days can be about more than simply survival.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

16

‘Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.’ Acts 9:31 (ESV)

‘In the night also, my heart instructs me.’ Psalm 16:8 (ESV)

‘Liking reading isn’t synonymous with being a good person.’

***The Librarian of Burned Books* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘I don’t think an author’s job is always to change the world. I think sometimes it’s to make it more enjoyable. Even for a brief amount of time.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘War had a way of making previous hurts inconsequential.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘I grew up in a democracy... that allowed space for radical ideas, and uncomfortable discussions, that encouraged critical thought and free speech.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

17 **‘My steps have held fast to your paths.’ Psalm 17:5 (ESV)**

‘In your presence there is fullness of joy.’ Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

‘Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction.’ Matthew 7:13 (ESV)

‘I can tell you that banning books, burning books, blocking books is often used as a way to erase a people, a belief system, a culture. To say these voices don’t belong here, even when those writers represent the very best of a country.’

***The Librarian of Burned Books* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘Once the spark catches, once the fire is lit and the flames begin to consume everything you hold dear, there is nothing in the world that can put it out.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

18 **‘Look at the birds of the air.’ Matthew 6:26 (ESV)**

‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ Acts 10:15 (ESV)

‘For I have kept the ways of the Lord.’ Psalm 18:21 (ESV)

‘We cannot stop individuals who read for the sole purpose of confirming their already closely held beliefs. But we can stop the dictators, the tyrants, the bullies, who try to impose that method on others.’ ***The Librarian of Burned Books* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘History is built on moments that feel insignificant.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘An attack on books, on rationality, on knowledge, isn’t a tempest in a teacup, but rather a canary dead in a coal mine.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

19 **‘Humanity is worth fighting for.’ Brianna Labuskes**

‘Chosen by God as witnesses.’ Acts 10:41 (ESV)

‘Do not interpretations belong to God?’ Genesis 40:8 (ESV)

‘Home may not be a place, but rather a person.’

***The Librarian of Burned Books* – Brianna Labuskes**

‘Most people would do anything to protect their comfortable worldview and the status quo that helped them survive.’ **Brianna Labuskes**

‘Sometimes strength of character comes through strife and struggle and failure.’

Brianna Labuskes

‘I have a taste for solitude, and silence, and for what Plotinus called *the flight of the alone to the Alone*.’ ***Teaching a Stone to Talk* – Annie Dillard**

20

‘The Lord my God lightens my darkness.’ Psalm 18:28 (ESV)

‘He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.’ Acts 11:24 (ESV)

‘Patience joins time to eternity.’ **Wendell Berry**

‘People take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience – even of silence – by choice. The thing is to stalk your calling in a certain skilled and supple way, to locate the most tender and live spot and plug into that pulse. This is yielding, not fighting.’

***Teaching a Stone to Talk* – Annie Dillard**

‘We are strangers and sojourners, soft dots on the rocks. You have walked along the strand and seen where birds have landed, walked, and flown; their tracks begin in sand, and go, and suddenly end. Our tracks do that: but we go down.’ **Annie Dillard**

21

‘Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins.’ Psalm 19:13 (ESV)

‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith. Matthew 8:26 (ESV)

‘There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places.’

Wendell Berry

‘There is a place called ‘the farm’ where I lived once, in a time that was very lonely. Fortunately, I was unconscious of my loneliness then and felt it only deeply,

bewildered, in the half-bright way that a puppy feels pain.’

Teaching a Stone to Talk – Annie Dillard

‘I liked the clutter of the place, the way everything blossomed or seeded or rusted. I liked the hundred half-finished projects, the smells, and the way the animals always broke loose.’ **Annie Dillard**

22 WAVE – We Are Valued Equally

‘For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’ Matthew 9:13 (ESV)

‘For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation.’ Acts 13:36 (ESV)

‘Fragments of pain aren’t like pieces of a puzzle. They can’t fit together to form something grander.’ ***The Bookshop of Yesterdays – Amy Meyerson***

‘Humans, I was discovering, believed they were in control of their own lives, and so they were in awe of questions and tests, as these made them feel like they had a certain mastery over other people, who had failed in their choices and who had not worked hard enough on the right answers. I suppose I must have forgotten how to be a human. It can happen, can’t it? Things can be forgotten sometimes.’ ***The Humans – Matt Haig***

23

‘If only I touch his garment, I will be made well.’ Matthew 9:21 (ESV)

‘With prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord.’ Acts 14:23 (ESV)

‘Trouble is, if you study philosophy and stop believing in a meaning (the meaning of life) you start to need medical help.’ ***The Humans – Matt Haig***

‘I was diagnosed as having suffered a ‘mental collapse’ due to sleep-deprivation and work pressures and a diet which consisted largely of strong black coffee.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Thank you,’ I said. ‘For the sandwich. I liked it. The bread, anyway.’ I didn’t honestly know why I said this, as I hadn’t enjoyed the sandwich. And yet it was the first time in my life I had thanked anyone for anything.’ **Matt Haig**

24 ‘Human history is full of depressing things.’ Matt Haig

‘According to your faith be it done to you.’ Matthew 9:29 (ESV)

‘They shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.’ Psalm 22:31 (ESV)

‘Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever the posture of the body – the soul is on its knees.’ **Victor Hugo**

‘I left the room, vowing in times of crisis never to be anywhere near a television.’
The Humans – Matt Haig

‘The computer was primitive. It had the words ‘MacBook Pro’ on it, and a keypad full of letters and numbers, and a lot of arrows pointing in every possible direction. It seemed like a metaphor for human existence.’ **Matt Haig**

25

‘Do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say.’ Matthew 10:19 (ESV)

‘Your rod and your staff they comfort me.’ Psalm 23:4 (ESV)

‘We are impatient creatures, impatient for the future to arrive and prone to forgetting the past in our urgency to have it all now.’ **Rebecca Solnit**

‘There is this new groundbreaking and controversial theory that money can’t buy you happiness.’ **The Humans – Matt Haig**

‘Humans are gullible. You could tell them anything in a convincing enough voice, and they would believe it. Anything of course, except the truth.’ **Matt Haig**

26

‘So do not fear. I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Genesis 50:21 (ESV)

‘I give myself to prayer.’ Psalm 109:4 (ESV)

‘Don’t shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see him.’
C. S. Lewis

‘To be human is to state the obvious. Repeatedly, over and over until the end of time.’
The Humans – Matt Haig

‘It was just a little bit of mental exhaustion. My mind had run its own marathon, and it struggled. My brain is made for sprints. It doesn’t have the stamina for long distance running.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Names are a symptom of a species which values the individual self above the collective good.’ **Matt Haig**

27

‘The midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them.’ Exodus 1:17 (ESV)

‘You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth.’ Psalm 74:17 (ESV)

‘We are lonely for something we don’t know we’re lonely for.’ **David Foster Wallace**

‘To see takes time, like to have a friend takes time.’ **Georgia O’Keeffe**

‘So this was love. Two life forms in mutual reliance.’ *The Humans* – **Matt Haig**

‘I knew there was one rule that held fast across the universe: if you wanted to get someone on your side what you really had to do was relieve their pain.’ **Matt Haig**

‘When I stood in the living room with nothing but my thoughts and plans, I realised I felt a terrible loneliness.’ **Matt Haig**

28

‘God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant.’ Exodus 2:24 (ESV)

‘In that day the Lord God of hosts called for weeping and mourning.’ Isaiah 22:12 (ESV)

‘This was jazz music. It was full of the complexity and contradictions that I would soon learn made humans human.’ *The Humans* – **Matt Haig**

‘We passed a man on the other side of the road. The man just stopped and stared at me and smiled to himself. I smiled and waved my hand, understanding this was an appropriate human greeting. He didn’t wave back. Yes, humans are a troubling species.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Humans have the ability to shape the path of other species.’ **Matt Haig**

29

‘God saw the people of Israel – and God knew.’ Exodus 2:25 (ESV)

‘I meditate on all that you have done.’ Psalm 143:5 (ESV)

‘Knowing is hard. It means that you have an obligation to act on what you know.’

John Hawthorne

‘Humans are still at the point of their development where they see a strong difference between the mental and the physical within the same body.’ *The Humans* – **Matt Haig**

‘The Language of Words was only one of the human languages.’ **Matt Haig**

‘The mother was an important concept for humans.’ **Matt Haig**

‘The humans still spent half their time in deep shadow.’ **Matt Haig**

30 **‘Lament – a passionate expression of grief or sorrow.’**

‘My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.’ Psalm 69:3 (ESV)

‘The one who endures to the end will be saved.’ Matthew 10:22 (ESV)

‘Anyone who has gotten over a heartbreak or a bereavement knows that there aren’t five stages of grief you pass through like they were five whistlestop towns on the train route. You are more this way one day and more that way the other, looping and regressing, and maybe building reconciliation or acceptance like a log cabin while living in sorrow, rather than sliding into it like you were stealing third base.’

Rebecca Solnit: Slow Change Can Be Radical Change.

31 **‘Hope is often irrational.’**

‘I wept and humbled my soul with fasting.’ Psalm 69:10 (ESV)

‘Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’ Matthew 10:39 (ESV)

‘Doing what’s right isn’t easy and is often costly.’ **Kimi Harris**

‘When you sell a man a book you don’t sell him just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue – you sell him a whole new life. Love and friendship and humour and ships at sea by night – there is all heaven and earth in a book.’

Parnassus on Wheels – Christopher Morley

‘Humans exist simultaneously in two worlds – the world of appearance and the world of truth.’ *The Humans* – **Matt Haig**

February

1

‘The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied.’ Exodus 1:12 (ESV)

‘Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’ Matthew 11:6 (ESV)

‘Humans... haven’t quite solved the problem of death.’ ***The Humans – Matt Haig***

‘The only thing humans like less than winning is losing, but at least something can be done about that.’ **Matt Haig**

‘The possibility of pain is where love stems from.’ **Matt Haig**

‘A piece of paper floated towards me, carried on the breeze from the open window. On it were two words. ‘I’m sorry!’ **Matt Haig**

2

‘But the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.’ Acts 16:7 (ESV)

‘The troubles of my heart are enlarged.’ Psalm 25:17 (ESV)

‘He fell, and I fell with him. First internally, a kind of emotional falling, a silent howl into an abyss, and then physically.’ ***The Humans – Matt Haig***

‘I read a lot of Isobel’s work and so I knew that the whole of human history was full of people who tried against the odds. Some succeeded, most failed, but that hadn’t stopped them.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Humans waste a lot of time with hypothetical stuff.’ **Matt Haig**

‘The flowers were beautiful. Flowers after love, must be the best advert planet Earth has going for it.’ **Matt Haig**

3

‘Moses took the staff of God in his hand.’ Exodus 4:20 (ESV)

‘For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’ Matthew 11:30 (ESV)

‘For broken dreams, the cure is dream again; and deeper.’ **C. S. Lewis**

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words,

And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

‘Emotions have logic. Without emotions humans wouldn’t care for each other... To care for others is self-preservation.’ ***The Humans* – Matt Haig**

4

‘I walk in your faithfulness.’ Psalm 26:3 (ESV)

‘I will put a division between my people and your people.’ Exodus 8:23 (ESV)

‘Kissing is what humans do when words have reached a place they can’t escape from.’

***The Humans* – Matt Haig**

‘Love is scary... because it makes you do stupid things – things that defy all logic.’

Matt Haig

‘The problem lying behind the lack of human fulfilment was a shortage not just of time but of imagination.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Friends are how we connect to the world.’ **Matt Haig**

5

‘The voice of the Lord flashes forth.’ Psalm 29:7

‘I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.’ Psalm 27:13 (ESV)

‘The tree is known by its fruit.’ Mathew 12:33 (ESV)

‘Writing is an act of spiritual necessity, that bids one to do their duty. It is both humility and an act of daring greatness.’ **Jeff Goins**

‘Reading and writing cannot be separated. Reading is breathing in; writing is breathing out.’ **Jeff Goins**

‘Sometimes the only power you need is persistence.’ ***The Humans* – Matt Haig**

‘Love was a way to live forever in a single moment.’ **Matt Haig**

‘The point of love is to help you survive.’ **Matt Haig**

6

‘The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.’ Exodus 14:14 (ESV)

‘The Lord sits enthroned over the flood.’ Psalm 29:10 (ESV)

‘Loneliness is a fact as universal as hydrogen.’ ***The Humans* – Matt Haig**

‘I felt the beautiful melancholy of being human, captured perfectly in the setting of the sun. Because, as with a sunset, to be human was to be in-between things; a day, bursting with desperate colour as it headed irreversibly towards night.’ **Matt Haig**

‘Rowing a race is an art, not a frantic scramble. It must be rowed with head power as well as hand power. Your thoughts must be directed to you and your own boat, always positive, never negative.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

***The Boys on the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

7

‘Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.’ Matthew 13:16 (ESV)

‘His favour is for a lifetime.’ Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

‘It is hard to make that boat go as fast as you want to. The enemy, of course, is resistance of the water, as you have to displace the amount of water equal to the weight of men and equipment, but that water is what supports you and that very enemy is your friend. So is life: the very problems you must overcome also support you and make you stronger in overcoming them.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

***The Boys on the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

8

‘The voice of the Lord flashes forth.’ Psalm 29:7 (ESV)

‘I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.’ Matthew 13:35 (ESV)

‘My times are in your hands.’ Psalm 31:15 (ESV)

‘Rowing is perhaps the toughest of sports. Once the race starts, there are no time-outs, no substitutions. It calls upon the limits of human endurance. The coach must therefore impart the secrets of the special kind of endurance that comes from mind, heart, and body.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

***The Boys on the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

9

‘Is not this the carpenter’s son?’ Matthew 13:55 (ESV)

‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.’ Psalm 32:8 (ESV)

‘One can’t love and do nothing.’ **Graham Greene**

‘Pocock (George Yeoman) paused and stepped back from the frame of the shell and put his hands on his hips, carefully studying the work he had so far done. He said for him the craft of building a boat was like religion. It wasn’t enough to master the technical details of it. You had to give yourself up to it spiritually; you had to surrender yourself absolutely to it. When you were done and walked away from the boat, you had to feel that you had left a piece of yourself behind in it forever, a bit of your heart.’

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

10 **‘The righteous will shine like the sun.’** Matthew 13:43 (ESV)

‘He went up on the mountain by himself to pray.’ Matthew 14:23 (ESV)

‘Serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials.’ Acts 20:19 (ESV)

‘Truth is ever-present but often goes unnoticed because of the noise of daily distraction.’ **Kevin Kaiser**

‘The Americans marched awkwardly on around the track and onto the infield to the strains of ‘Deutschlandlied.’ George Pocock would later say that when they heard the strains of the German anthem they began to march deliberately out of step with the music.’ ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

‘It takes energy to get angry. It eats you up inside. I can’t waste my energy like that and expect to get ahead.’ (Joe Rantz) ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

11

He cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Matthew 14:30 (ESV)

‘When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears.’ Psalm 34:17 (ESV)

‘If you pay close enough attention to anything, you start to see everything.’ **Jeff Goins**

‘When the critical moment in a close race was upon you, you had to know something he did not – that down in your core you still had something in reserve, something you had not yet shown, something that once revealed would make him doubt himself, make him falter just when it counted the most. Like so much in life, crew was partly about

confidence, partly about knowing your own heart.’ (Joe Rantz)

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

12 **‘If you have faith.’ Matthew 17:20 (ESV)**

‘Let the will of the Lord be done’ Acts 21:14 (ESV)

‘For with you is the fountain of life.’ Psalm 36:9 (ESV)

‘There are four basic human emotions: happiness, sadness, fear, and anger. Valuing our positivity pushes 75% of our human experience into our shadow, where it makes us ill.’ **Kelly Flanagan**

‘Every man in the boat had absolute confidence in every one of his mates... Why they won cannot be attributed to individuals, not even the stroke Don Hume. Heartfelt cooperation all spring was responsible for the victory.’ (Al Ulbrickson)

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

13

‘I will enlarge your borders.’ Exodus 34:24 (ESV)

‘You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.’ Matthew 16:3 (ESV)

‘The season of Lent is a three-legged stool, with each leg representing the three traditional practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.’ **Tsh Oxenreider**

‘Lent is an invitation and should be treated as such.’ **Tsh Oxenreider**

‘It was the kind of thing that showed you that a little guy could still make all the difference, and it reminded you how suddenly events could turn around in this world, for better or for worse.’ (Joe Rantz) ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

‘Rowing then becomes a kind of perfect language. Poetry, that’s what a good swing feels like.’ (Joe Rantz) ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

14

‘Those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.’ Acts 22:9 (ESV)

‘Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.’ Matthew 16:19 (ESV)

‘Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.’ **N. T. Wright**

‘Look, son, if there is one thing I have figured out about life, it is that if you want to be happy, you have to learn how to be happy on your own.’ (Harry Rantz)

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

15 **‘If you have faith.’ Matthew 17:20 (ESV)**

‘For the Lord loves justice.’ Psalm 37:28 (ESV)

‘Jesus rebuked the demon and it came out of him.’ Matthew 17:18 (ESV)

‘Joe, when you really start trusting those other boys, you will feel a power at work within you that is far beyond anything you have ever imagined, Sometimes, you will feel as if you have rowed right off the planet and are rowing among the stars.’

(George Yeoman Pocock) ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

‘Men as fit as you, when your everyday strength is gone, can draw on a mysterious reservoir of power far greater. Then it is that you can reach for the stars. That is the way champions are made.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

16

‘For there is a future for the man of peace.’ Psalm 37:37 (ESV)

‘There will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.’ Acts 24:15 (ESV)

‘Human misery is too great for men to do without faith.’ **Heinrich Heine**

‘These giants of the forest are something to behold. Some have been growing for a thousand years, and each tree contains its own story of the centuries’ long struggle for survival. Looking at the annular rings of the wood, you can tell what seasons they have been through. In some drought years they almost perished, as growth is barely perceptible. In others, the growth was far greater.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown

17

‘As I mused, the fire burned.’ Psalm 39:3 (ESV)

‘Forgive your brother from your heart.’ Matthew 18:35 (ESV)

‘One of the summits of human happiness is to be absorbed in the task.’ **Ian McEwan**

‘It is not a question of whether you will hurt, or of how much you will hurt; it is a question of what you will do, and how well you will do it, while pain has her wanton way with you.’ ***The Boys on the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

‘The ability to yield, to bend, to give way, to accommodate, he said, was sometimes a source of strength in men as well as wood, so long as it was helmed by inner resolve and by principle.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

The Boys in the Boat – Daniel James Brown

18

‘Surely all mankind is a mere breath.’ Psalm 39:11 (ESV)

‘And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him to consecrate him.’ Leviticus 8:12 (ESV)

‘If you simply kept your eyes open, it seemed, you just might find something valuable in the most unlikely places. The trick was to recognise a good thing when you saw it, no matter how odd or worthless it might at first appear, no matter who else might just walk away and leave it behind.’ (Joe Rantz) ***The Boys in the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

‘And perhaps that was the worst of it. Whether you were a banker or a baker, a homemaker or homeless, it was with you night and day – a terrible, unrelenting uncertainty about the future, a feeling that the ground could drop out from under you for good at any moment.’ (Joe Rantz) ***The Boys in the Boat – Daniel James Brown***

19

‘Let the little children come to me.’ Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

‘To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.’ Acts 26:18 (ESV)

‘If you don’t have the courage to ask, the only answer you will get is ‘No!’ **Marc Randolf**

‘One of the first admonitions of a good rowing coach, after the fundamentals are over is, *pull your own weight*, and the young oarsman does just that when he finds out the boat

goes better when he does. There is certainly a social implication here.
(George Yeoman Pocock) ***The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

20

‘At night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.’ Psalm 42:8 (ESV)

‘But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’ Matthew 19:30 (ESV)

‘We are all humans. There is only the one race and that is the human race, and we are all equal.’ **Paul Grinwald** (Holocaust Survivor)

‘Where is the spiritual value of rowing?... The losing of self entirely to the cooperative effort of the crew as a whole.’ (George Yeoman Pocock)

***The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

‘Harmony, balance, and rhythm. They are the three things that stay with you your whole life. Without them civilisation is out of whack. And that’s why an oarsman, when he goes out in life, he can fight it, he can handle it. That is what he gets from rowing.’

(George Yeoman Pocock) ***The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

21

‘Performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.’ Acts 26:20 (ESV)

‘He knows the secrets of the heart.’ Psalm 44:21 (ESV)

‘Through the gates of pain, we enter into joy.’ **Frederick Buechner**

‘If I hadn’t loved him, there wouldn’t be this agony. ‘This,’ said Jesus, ‘is the command of the Holy One. You should love your neighbour as yourself.’ In commanding us to love, God invites us to suffer.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘My mother reigns over the inside of the house, and is afraid of the outside, which is her husband’s realm. His boots, hat, and stock whip live at the border between the two – the back veranda.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

22 ‘Mystical insight demands solitude.’ **Robyn Davidson**

‘It is the blood that makes atonement by the life.’ Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)

‘Whoever would be great among you must be your slave.’ Matthew 20:27 (ESV)

‘Every child is a mystic. That is, immersed in a state of wonder unsullied by blight of comparison, by tug of history or pull of consequence.’

Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

‘Once you are aware of time’s line, you are also aware of endings.’ **Robyn Davidson**

‘I had used a kind of scorched-earth policy in regard to my past. I threw bombs over my shoulder, and seeds ahead of me, into the future, on the assumption that when I arrived there, something would be growing.’ **Robyn Davidson**

23

‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David.’ Matthew 20:30 (ESV)

‘When a stranger sojourns in your land, you shall not do him wrong.’ Leviticus 19:33 (ESV)

‘Hope makes you see God’s guiding hand not only in the gentle and pleasant moments but also in the shadows of disappointment and darkness.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Much is written these days about the accoutrements necessary to good schooling: libraries, labs, music rooms, facilities... But in the fifties, the only teachers’ aids available in country schools were chalk, grey plasticine, grey slates and heroic dedication.’ ***Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson***

24

‘My house should be called a house of prayer.’ Matthew 21:13 (ESV)

‘Come, behold the works of the Lord.’ Psalm 46:8 (ESV)

‘Stuffed emotions inevitably find their way out, oftentimes sideways on the people we love.’ **Jennie Allen**

‘The remorse (for inflicting hurt on another student), a sensation that flooded both body and mind, inoculated me for ever against that indifference to the suffering one causes, which is the most durable of human cruelties.

My fear of being the cause of another’s suffering is so intense that I will allow myself to be persecuted by them instead.’ ***Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson***

25

‘And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.’ Matthew 21:22 (ESV)

‘God reigns over the nations.’ Psalm 47:8 (ESV)

‘The better way to respond to emotions is to fully embrace the purpose they were made for - connection. Connection to God and connection to others.’ **Jennie Allen**

‘Good thoughts have much to do with good rowing. It isn’t enough for the muscles of the crew to work in unison; their hearts and minds must also be as one.’

(George Yeoman Pocock) ***The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown**

‘My father taught me how to listen to the silence of nature so that its silences opened all the way out to the rim of our exploding universe.’

***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

26

‘You shall clear out the old to make way for the new.’ Leviticus 26:10 (ESV)

‘By what authority are you doing these things? Matthew 21:23 (ESV)

‘If the map in your head doesn’t match what you see under your feet, then you are working with the wrong map.’ **Ann Voskamp**

‘At that time (a 38-year-old living in London) an old melancholy, a temperamental strain that I accepted as being as much part of me as my vital organs, was gaining ground over an otherwise sunny disposition. Partly this was due to the disorder and uncertainty of constant upheaval, of having had no safe place to retreat into; partly it was to do with the ordinary loneliness of always being an outsider; and partly it was the residuum of the love affair.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

27

‘I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.’ Leviticus 26:13 (ESV)

‘To bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name.’ Romans 1:5 (ESV)

‘The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘Don’t cry?’ Crying is the most appropriate thing you can think of.

Nicholas Walterstorff

‘God was not mentioned in discussions with my father. I don’t think he lacked belief necessarily, but his background was high C or E which meant that he was happy to let God exist or not exist, as He chose.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘God, for me, was a bit like Santa Clause. I knew Santa was really my father... Religion was a convention one upheld. But although God died early for me, a certain longing was left intact.’ **Robyn Davidson**

28

‘It is good land that the Lord our God is giving us.’ Deuteronomy 1:25 (ESV)

‘That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.’
Romans 1:12 (ESV)

‘Only those who do not fight are never wounded.’ St John Chrysostom

‘I was aware that the life I had constructed had shaky foundations. So much was obvious. But I had taken that as a given, and not something to focus on. People survive much worse than having mothers who commit suicide.’

Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

‘I remained with him longer than I should have, a couple of years, because I could not understand the reason for the upheavals, for the abandonments. There had to be something in me, in my behaviour, that caused them. If I could find out what that was, then the oscillations would cease, and only love would remain. Such is the dementing effect of desire on intelligence.’ **Robyn Davidson**

29

‘So even to old age and grey hairs, O God do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation.’ Psalm 71:18 (ESV)

‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ Romans 1:17 (ESV)

‘I will never forget those moments from yesterday as long as I live and yet, as soon as the first sliver of light returned, the memory of darkness had already begun loosening its grip.’ **Lore Wilbert**

‘The world is always vaster than we can imagine.’ **George Saunders**

‘One might ignore or forget a past, but possessions proved it was somewhere.’

Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

‘We are not the owners of anything, not even our thoughts, that rise to the surface like deep-water fish.’ **Robyn Davidson**

March

1

‘Tell the next generation that this is God, our God for ever and ever.’ Psalm 48:14 (ESV)

‘The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness.’ Numbers 1:1 (ESV)

‘I think we ought to own our grief. I put it like this. If Eric was worth loving when he was alive, then he is worth grieving over when dead. Why would he not be?’

Nicholas Wolterstorff

‘Fame, the grand deluded, puts you at risk of ceasing to be yourself. It distorts not just how you appear to others, which doesn’t matter much, but how you might appear to yourself, which does.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘My father doles out money as if it were peeling off his own skin. It is not just a humiliation; it is a kind of annihilation.’ **Robyn Davidson**

2

‘The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.’ Matthew 21:43 (ESV)

‘Although they knew God, they did not honour him as God.’ Romans 1:21 (ESV)

‘There is no life, no moment, that doesn’t have the big themes in it.’ **George Saunders**

‘The loneliness outside of marriage was hard to bear, but loneliness inside the marriage sounded and diminished her.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘I noticed that, as I wrote, the memories were being subsumed into the book, such that I no longer had ready access to them. They seemed to blur and fade as the writing progressed, as if the book was cannibalising the reality it described.’ **Robyn Davidson**

3

‘They exchanged the truth about God for a lie.’ Romans 1:25 (ESV)

‘My mouth shall speak wisdom.’ Psalm 49:3 (ESV)

O God, early in the morning I cry to you
Help me to pray
And to concentrate my thoughts on you
I cannot do this alone

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light
I am lonely, but you do not leave me.
I am feeble in heart but with you is strength
I am restless, but with you is peace
In me is bitterness, but with you is patience
I do not understand your ways
But you know the way for me
Restore me to freedom
Help me to so live now
That I may answer before You and before me
Lord, whatever this day may bring
Your name be praised
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

4

‘God’s kindness is meant to leads you to repentance.’ Romans 2:4 (ESV)

‘Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.’ Psalm 50:14 (ESV)

‘Depression is a clever and persuasive liar; it doesn’t require fact to rob you of your hope.’ **John Pavlovitz**

‘Grief is a special kind of suffering. It’s intensely what you know cannot be.’
Nicholas Wolterstorff

‘In solitude, in wild places, something essential within begins to respond. The trivial struggles to get purchase. A different way of being comes foreground, while peripheral anxieties retreat.’ **Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson**

‘For the very first time in my life, I experienced a spasm of identification with that barely remembered mother. I saw the vista of her outback life open out in all its loneliness, felt the harsh judgements of the obtuse and the envious.’ **Robyn Davidson**

5

‘None is righteous, no not one.’ Romans 3:10 (ESV)

‘My sin is ever before me.’ Psalm 51:3 (ESV)

‘There is something likeable and relatable about everyone once you hear the most vulnerable parts of their story, their deepest fears, their insecurities.’ **Dr. Vicki Connop**

‘Before returning to London I had one small thing left to do. I had not attended either of my parents’ funerals, so it seemed fitting that I should liberate their ashes from the brick wall in which they were stowed, take them to where my sister was holidaying and together, we would scatter them in the Pacific.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘I was on sentimentality patrol, but in truth I did feel a disquiet, not because of any false emotion regarding my parents, but because collecting the ashes was a preliminary step in a ritual that would involve my sister. And the living are less predictable than the dead.’
Robyn Davidson

6

‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’ Romans 3:18 (ESV)

‘Take not your Holy Spirit from me.’ Psalm 51:11 (ESV)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.’ Psalm 51:17 (ESV)

‘I was relieved that I had discovered so little about my mother. An imaginary mother somehow had more vitality than a historical one. Myth is fertile; fact is dry. As well, facts, like memories, are not always truthful.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘The way memory plays in the mind is not factual. It is sketchy, mythical, misremembered, contradictory. It is flickers of light on unfathomable darkness. We go back over and back over the past, watching it change with each take, not thinking of it as what happened so much as, what does it mean? What do we say about it, and what do we choose not to say?’ **Robyn Davidson**

7

‘As soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied.’ Numbers 11:25 (ESV)

‘Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.’
Matthew 23:12 (ESV)

‘Spirituality is in the underground, the unseen root system where God works.’
Aimee Byrd

‘The novels were teaching me what all good novels can: that it is better to understand than to judge.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘Most of my opinions were received opinions, suspended in a void of ignorance.’

Robyn Davidson

‘I was given a restless, questing character. The sort of character that wants to get behind the act, to the truth of things. Such a character can display reckless disregard for consequences, often misread as bravery.’ **Robyn Davidson**

8

‘While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ Romans 5:8 (ESV)

‘The Lord is the upholder of my life.’ Psalm 54:4 (ESV)

‘Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots.’ **Victor Hugo**

‘A pattern now began to express itself. Throw bombs over your shoulder, throw seeds into the future, so that by the time you get there, something will be growing.’

***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘The spiritual adventure of solitude was no guarantor of happiness. There were days when it was impossible to get out of bed. I would see, with relief, the beast of melancholy disappearing over the horizon, only to find, a little later, that it had circled around behind and was at work again, dismantling, destroying – a periodic annihilation of everything I had achieved.’ **Robyn Davidson**

9

‘If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.’ Romans 6:8 (ESV)

‘Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.’ Matthew 24:12 (ESV)

‘One of the reasons why I love novels - to go back to them - is novelists, of course, are extraordinarily skilled at putting us in the heads of people with lives very different from our own.’ **Russ Roberts**

‘Happy people did not know that the partition between everyday consciousness and the stranger places is tissue thin. They did not understand that staying out of them, being normal, requires effort, will and vigilance.’ ***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘Ignorance is a treasure, not to be casually spent. My ignorance being unfathomable, learning must therefore be immeasurable. A life of exploration and investigation lay ahead. Reason enough to drag myself out of bed; reason enough to stay alive.’

Robyn Davidson

10

‘In God I Trust. I shall not be afraid.’ Psalm 56:4 (ESV)

‘The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak.’ Numbers 22:38 (ESV)

‘I had my inner world to retreat into (though the inner is not necessarily safer than the outer). I had never spoken to anyone about the bedlam sealed in my insignificant skull.’

Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

‘When you are a stranger in a strange land, the ordinary is no less strange than the bizarre.’ **Robyn Davidson**

‘Loneliness is unavoidable. But it is not the worst thing. Indeed, it can be a useful thing. A fertile thing. It is, after all, the deepest part of us, however much we are meshed into the lives of others.’ **Robyn Davidson**

11

‘In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge.’ Psalm 57:1 (ESV)

‘Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’ Matthew 25:13 (ESV)

The words of an old professor - ‘Those who don’t build must burn.’

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

‘Never allow your previous failures to hold you back.’ **John Bevere**

‘Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.’

Gertrude Stein

‘A friend said, ‘Remember, he’s in good hands now.’ I was deeply moved. But that reality does not put Eric back in my hands now. That’s my grief. For that grief, what consolation can there be other than having him back.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

12

‘Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.’
Romans 8:3 (ESV)

‘I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.’ Matthew 25:35 (ESV)

‘All we want to do is keep the knowledge we think we will need, intact and safe.’
Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

‘You have to grow towards old age to feel time’s acceleration.’
Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson

‘From some separate, safer place within, I observed everything. Suicidal thoughts were constant, yet somehow, because of that detached, watching self, I believed that I would not kill myself.’ **Robyn Davidson**

‘I am in intolerable pain. It is the pain that no drug can get at because it is lodged somewhere between the physical and the mental.’ **Robyn Davidson**

13

‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness.’ Romans 8:26 (ESV)

‘With God we shall do valiantly.’ Psalm 60:12 (ESV)

‘The books were waiting, with their pages uncut, for the customers who might come by in later years, some with clean and some with dirty fingers.’
Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

‘Suffering is undignified. It is not how one wishes to be seen, to be thought of. Then, too, one does not want to burden anyone. Or to see impatience or withdrawal in their eyes. One never knows who will be frightened by distress, who will feel inadequate in the face of it, and turn away. So, it is better to keep your injuries hidden, to avoid the added insult. You begin to quarantine yourself.’ **Unfinished Woman - Robyn Davidson**

‘I had been given an impossible task, a fairy-tale task. I was to write about my mother, not because I wanted to (I very much did not want to), but because she wanted me to.’
Robyn Davidson

14

‘The world is full of burning.’ **Ray Bradbury**

‘If God is for us, who can be against us.’ Romans 8:31 (ESV)

‘He has mercy on whomever he wills.’ Romans 9:18 (ESV)

‘Everyone must leave something behind when he dies,’ my grandfather said. ‘A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built, or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched, something that is you.’

***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘I saw how quickly you can move from being a fellow human to being a problem, and that dehumanising glance frightened me more than anything.’

***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘I had no faith in the pills (antidepressants) but, having no will outside suffering, I agreed to anything. I accepted the pills as a dog, or a cat would accept them.’ **Robyn Davidson**

15

‘The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you.’ Deuteronomy 1:30 (ESV)

‘You have lacked nothing.’ Deuteronomy 2:7 (ESV)

‘We are going to meet a lot of lonely people in the next week and the next month and the next year. And when they ask us what we are doing, you can say, ‘We’re remembering.’

***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘What you are best at is also how you fail. One of my strengths is a high tolerance of discomfort – physical and mental. My independence, my reluctance to ask for help, my pride, my assumption, developed in childhood, that I must look after myself because there was no one else to do so; those habits of being now worked against me.’

***Unfinished Woman* - Robyn Davidson**

‘I still believe that in the right environment, under proper care, a tormented mind can be restored to health without the necessity of drugs. But where one might have found that ‘right environment’, I don’t know. It was not available to me. And it was certainly not available to my mother.’ **Robyn Davidson**

16

‘This is the blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’ Matthew 26:28 (ESV)

‘The word is near you; in your mouth and in your heart.’ Romans 10:8 (ESV)

‘All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’ **J. R. R. Tolkien**

‘The difference between the man who just cuts lawns, and a real gardener, is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

‘When Jesus vacated the tomb, he populated the heart of humanity with hope. And since his grave is empty, our confidence in his return is not.’ **Max Lucado**

17

‘In the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.’ Psalm 63:7 (ESV)

‘For the Lord your God is a consuming fire.’ Deuteronomy 4:24 (ESV)

‘Grief is not just an emotion - it’s an unravelling, a space where something once lived but is now gone. It carves through you, leaving a hollow ache where love once resided.’
Anonymous

Granger said, ‘When I was a boy my grandfather died, and he was a sculptor. He was also a very kind man who had a lot of love to give the world, and he helped clean up the slum in our town; and he made toys for us, and he did a million things in his lifetime; he was always busy with his hands. And when he died, I suddenly realised I wasn’t crying for him at all, but for the things he did. I cried because he would never do them again, he would never carve another piece of wood or help us raise doves and pigeons in the backyard, or play the violin the way he did, or tell us the jokes the way he did. He was part of us and when he died all the actions stopped dead and there was no one to do them just the way he did. He was individual. He was an important man. I’ve never gotten over his death.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

18

‘A partial hardening has come upon Israel.’ Romans 11:25 (ESV)

‘The river of God is full of water.’ Psalm 65:9 (ESV)

‘Don’t let the world leave its dirty smudge on you. The world is always assessing people, sizing them up, pulling them down, establishing a pecking order.’ **Bishop N. T. Wright**

‘You can’t make people listen. They have to come round in their time, wondering what happened, and why the world blew up under them.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

‘We’re the odd minority, crying in the wilderness.’ **Ray Bradbury**

‘If you survive long enough to see tomorrow, it may bring you the answer that seems so impossible today.’ **Ben Horowitz**

19

‘Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.’ Romans 12:6 (ESV)

‘Come and see what God has done.’ Psalm 66:5 (ESV)

‘People are like books: Some deceive you with their cover and others surprise you with their content.’ **Anonymous**

‘There was a silence gathered all about that fire and the silence was in the men’s faces, and time was there, time enough to sit by this rusting track under the trees, and look at the world and turn it over with the eyes, as if it were held to the centre of the bonfire, a piece of steel these men were shaping. It was not only the fire that was different. It was the silence.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

‘He walked in the shallow tide of leaves, stumbling. And in the middle of the strangeness, a familiarity.’ **Ray Bradbury**

20 **‘No one feels like a hero in the wilderness.’**

‘Let his blood be on us and on our children.’ Matthew 27:25 (ESV)

‘Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.’ Romans 12:21 (ESV)

‘Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.’ **Aldous Huxley**

‘He stood breathing, and the more he breathed the land in the more he was filled up with all the details of the land. He was not empty. There was more than enough here to fill him.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

‘It was only the other night everything was fine and the next thing I know, I’m drowning. How many times can a man go down and still be alive? I can’t breathe.’ **Ray Bradbury**

21

‘Open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy, and to the poor, in your land.’
Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV)

‘Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.’ Romans 13:12
(ESV)

‘The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing - to find the place where all the beauty came from.’ ***Till We Have Faces* - C. S. Lewis**

‘He realised that he was indeed, running towards Faber’s house. He knew Faber’s would be the place where he might refuel his vast draining belief in his own ability to survive. He just wanted to know that there was a man like Faber in the world.’

***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘Each man had a book he wanted to remember and did.’ **Ray Bradbury**

22

‘There was darkness over the land.’ Matthew 27:45 (ESV)

‘I have come into deep waters.’ Psalm 69:2 (ESV)

‘Above all, do not lose your desire to walk. I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it.’

Soren Kierkegaard

Captain Beatty to Montag: ‘Give a man a few lines of verse and he thinks he’s the Lord of all Creation. You think you can walk on water with your books. Well, the world can get by just fine without them.’ ***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘What is fire? Its real beauty is that it destroys responsibility and consequences. A problem gets too burdensome, then into the furnace with it.’ **Ray Bradbury**

23

‘May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace.’ Matthew 15:13 (ESV)

‘The Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’ Deuteronomy 20:4 (ESV)

‘What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.’ **Helen Keller**

Montag leaned forward. ‘This afternoon I thought that if it turned out that books were worthwhile, we might get a press and print some extra copies.’

***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘Books were only one receptacle where we stored a lot of things we were afraid we might forget. There is nothing magical in them at all. The magic is only in what books say, how they stitched the patches of the universe together into one garment for us.’

Ray Bradbury

24

‘Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

‘But has now been disclosed through the prophetic writings.’ Romans 16:26 (ESV)

‘I often wonder if God recognises His own son the way we have dressed him up, or is it dressed him down?’ ***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘Mr Montag, you are looking at a coward. I saw the way things were going, a long time back. I said nothing.’ **Ray Bradbury**

‘Maybe the books can get us half out of the cave. They just might stop us from making the same damn insane mistakes.’ **Ray Bradbury**

‘The home environment can undo a lot you try to do at school.’ **Ray Bradbury**

25

‘Do not cast me off in the time of old age.’ Psalm 72:9 (ESV)

‘So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.’ Psalm 71:18 (ESV)

‘There is no friend as loyal as a book.’ **Ernest Hemingway**

‘We must all be alike. Not everyone born free and equal, as the Constitution says, but everyone made equal. Each man the image of every other; then all are happy. So! A book is a loaded gun in the house next door.’ ***Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury**

‘Technology, mass exploitation, and minority pressure carried the trick...’ **Ray Bradbury**

26

‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’ Mark 1:2 (ESV)

‘He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’ Mark 1:8 (ESV)

‘The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries.’ **René Descartes**

‘We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were really bothered? About something important, about something real?’

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

‘He had begun to cry, not at death but at the thought of not crying at death.’

Ray Bradbury

‘A book alighted, almost obediently, like a white pigeon in his hands, wings fluttering. Montag had only an instant to read a line, but it blazed in his mind... ‘Time has fallen asleep in the afternoon sunshine.’ **Ray Bradbury**

27 “He wore his happiness like a mask.” **Ray Bradbury**

‘The Lord will command the blessing on you.’ Deuteronomy 28:8 (ESV)

‘The kingdom of God is at hand.’ Mark 1:15 (ESV)

‘What a miracle it is to want to be here, to soften into more aliveness even amid the hurts of this world.’ **Lisa Olivera**

‘We shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.’ (A man named Latimer said that to a man named Nicholas Ridley, as they were burnt alive at Oxford, for heresy, on 16 October 1555)

‘I’ve got to see my psychiatrist now. He says, ‘I’m a regular onion.’ I keep him busy peeling away the layers.’ **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

28

‘The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing.’ 1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

‘You did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart.’
Deuteronomy 28:47 (ESV)

‘Montag gazed beyond them to the wall with the typed lists of a million forbidden books. Their names leapt in fire, burning down the years... **Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury**

‘Prepare to see God’s prophetic words to surge rapidly and in quick succession. Just as the waves of the ocean sweep upon the sand, my words will sweep upon the land.’
Andrew Towe

29

‘The things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.’ Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

‘And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.’ Mark 1:35 (ESV)

‘We are called to be exceptional in the ordinary things, faithful in the little things, trustworthy when nobody’s looking.’ **Elisabeth Elliott**

‘I thought of Robinson Crusoe as Paul and I rode home that afternoon. When Crusoe was on the island, he didn’t have company, only his own thoughts. *I learned to look more upon the bright side of my condition, and less upon the dark side.* He taught himself to change his thoughts. Even after he was shipwrecked and lost his friends and his boat and didn’t know if he would ever go home.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

‘My hand moved the pencil across the paper, making a small scratching sound, back and forth. My eyes were on the mountain – his body of rock, broken with indentations in a vertical pattern, one after the other, each filled with shadow - while my hand was on the paper.’ **Sofie Laguna**

30

‘But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.’
Deuteronomy 30:14 (ESV)

‘The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ Mark 2:10 (ESV)

I would love to live
like a river flows,
carried by the surprise
of its own unfolding. **John O'Donohue**

'There was enough space to hear the silence. A silence so thick it made sound. The clouds passing made sound; the grass growing made sound; the trees and flowers, the rocks, the leaves, the trail of dirt beneath our feet, all made sound. I looked up ahead at Wallis, jutting into the blue sky. The silence seemed to come from the mountain itself, beginning inside him, radiating outwards.' **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

'I sat on the edge of the porch drawing the sheep in the field beyond the fence. The field appeared shiny with rain. The sky above was filled with wispy clouds, as if the fur the mother rabbit had taken from her chest was pulled thin and spread across the sky.'
Sofie Laguna

31

'We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God.' 1 Corinthians 2:7 (ESV)

'Be strong and courageous.' Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

'Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger. Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break. **H. G. Wells**

'Perspective? Let's see... it's the way you show the dimensions of your subject. The way you make it real on the paper.' He touched one of the grazing sheep. 'Your animal here has dimension, and is the right size for your field, and your fence, so I believe it. At least, I do not question it; I enter the scene without effort and am immersed within it. You have communicated with me. You have shared your vision.'

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

'When our mother died, there was no one to take us. Father couldn't manage after he came back from France; he wasn't the same. It wasn't an uncommon story. The war left men without direction. They saw too much and no longer knew how to...how to live their lives, as if what they had seen made them wonder why they needed to try at all. What was the point? The point of the effort, I mean.' **Sofie Laguna**

April

1

'Drowning in a sea of information' **Jeff Goins**

‘The hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.’ 1 Corinthians 2:7 (ESV)

‘These stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.’ Joshua 4:7 (ESV)

‘Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us God’s beloved. Being the beloved expresses the core truth of our existence. **Henri Nouwen**

‘The illness was both a blessing and a curse. I was taken to the hospital, and Louise was left behind with the Hartfields. I couldn’t afford to think of her. I was the lucky one, if you can believe it. But it’s still here with me, the disease (polio) – worse lately. Everything that happens remains hidden somewhere and eventually makes itself known. Nothing is exempt.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

The book appeared old with threads from its fabric cover coming loose. Across the front was the title in silver, pressed into the black: *Letters from the Masters*.

‘The book is a collection of letters the greatest painters in the world have written, Lawrence. To each other, to their patrons and mentors, to their priests, their fathers...their wives.’ **Sofie Laguna**

2

‘No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.’ 1 Corinthians 2:11 (ESV)

‘The manna ceased the day after they ate the produce of the land.’ Joshua 5:12 (ESV)

Being with grief expands the heart.

Being with grief makes love more obvious.

Being with grief clarifies what matters. **Lisa Olivera**

‘These paintings were done a long time ago, most of them more than a hundred years, and yet the ideas they hold are as fresh and important as if they had been painted today...Nothing has changed. Money, love, problems of confidence and faith, physical health – all the same.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

Each painting told a different story. ‘Because the painting comes from a person,’ I whispered. **Sofie Laguna**

3

‘We have the mind of Christ.’ 1 Corinthians 2:15 (ESV)

‘Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark.’ Mark 1:38 (ESV)

‘At her weakest, she had had to crawl up the stairs to the second floor of the house, wounded by grief, crazed by grief, broken by grief as a snake upon whose vertebrae a giant boot has stomped.’ **Breathe - Joyce Carol Oates**

‘As I pedalled my bike to school the following Friday, I looked at the Grampian mountains on my right, at the green flats of Hughlon, at the wattle trees and stringybarks along the dirt road. Above it all, was the deep blue winter sky. This too was a landscape. I thought to myself, yet it was not like any of the landscapes in the book. The skies seemed brighter – wider. The trees held grey in the green of their leaves, and their trunks were ghostly white. Flowers formed in the shape of rounded bushes, and others were like paws of a kangaroo. The birds were unlike any I had seen in the book. Which master had ever painted an emu? A cockatoo? Each new thought came as I pushed down the pedals; this landscape is unique, down went the pedal, it can be painted, down went the pedal, if there were masters who painted Australian landscapes in the past – down went the pedal – could I be one in the future?’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

4

‘We never saw anything like this.’ Mark 2:12 (ESV)

‘The Lord will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.’ 1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)

‘It is not what we think or feel that makes us who we are. It is what we do. Or fail to do.’

Sense and Sensibility - Jane Austin

‘Uncle knew things that grown-up people knew, he had grown-up people’s thoughts, and strength. I was nothing. Knew nothing.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

‘After he was gone, I fell deeper and deeper, into the dark and quiet place underneath all life. Oneself thought, I could be here forever; the other knew the time was almost over.’ **Sofie Laguna**

‘My body grew tall, I had the parts of a man, but the parts did not speak to one another.’
Sofie Laguna

5

‘Purge the evil person from among you.’ 1 Corinthians 5:13 (ESV)

‘You are the God who works wonders.’ Psalm 77:14 (ESV)

‘Grief has so settled in your bones; you cannot recall a time when you were not burning with it.’ **Breathe - Joyce Carol Oates**

‘I did not paint anymore, although I continued to see opportunities where the search for something unseen might begin. I saw it in chimney smoke, in fallen branches, in spiders’ webs. In nests, in rain and in rainbows. I saw it in the range of mountains, in the movement of clouds, in sunlight, in flowers on the branch, the beaks of birds.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

‘The earth was damp and dark as I cleared away the weeds, giving the celery and beetroot space in their rows. I don’t know how long I was there, working the garden in the shadow of Wallis. *Yes, that’s right, that’s the way, Lawrence, Mrs Barry* whispered.’

Sofie Laguna

6

‘Have you still no faith?’ (Mark 4:40)

‘He restrained his anger often.’ Psalm 78:38 (ESV)

‘The two shall become one flesh.’ 1 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV)

‘Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘I both wanted to speak as others spoke and did not. Wanted the words kept close.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

‘I looked to the outline of Wallis, standing at the front, brave enough to face the dangers, loved by his brothers – Abrupt and Piccaninny. ‘Wallis...’ I lifted my face to the last stars. In darkness the landscape rested, withdrew, concealed by the absence of light. How would it ever be possible to paint the night? It was only possible in contrast.’

Sofie Laguna

‘I looked at the fields and the hay rolls and the white puffs of cloud in the cold blue sky. Fairy wrens flew in and out of the bottlebrush trees that lined the road, flicking their tails and bouncing between the branches. ‘My first day,’ I told the birds.’ **Sofie Laguna**

7

‘If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.’ Mark 3:24 (ESV)

‘Let your compassion come speedily to meet us.’ Psalm 79:8 (ESV)

‘I do not always feel His presence. But God’s promises do not depend upon my feelings, they rest upon His integrity.’ **R. C. Sproul**

‘From the summit I looked out in the direction of Hamilton, far below. I would go there, in Bill Granger’s truck, and be in the world of the dairy, the world of men. I would do my work, then I would catch the bus home, and climb the mountain. This was where I would sit, right here, the wind about my head, and beneath the wind, beneath it all – silence.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

‘When autumn came, the leaves on Mrs Barry’s maple turned red and orange, and I could feel the cool air on either side of the long hot days. The sunsets then were pale yellow and purple and grey – dramatic events, to farewell the summer. Silent sky, sky as witness. Sky around the world. It was a wonder there was a man on earth who could tear his eyes from it more than an hour.’ **Sofie Laguna**

8

‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God.’ Mark 4:11 (ESV)

‘The Lord gave them rest on every side.’ Joshua 21:44 (ESV)

‘All of creation is awaiting your attention now, crying out for it, ready to burst forth with possibility. All you have to do is pick up a book and begin.’ **Jeff Goins**

‘Words were the place my stammer ended, not where it began. There were breaks between things that had not been there before. A thought would start on its course, but I could not follow it. Alone in my room, where I could sit against my wall, it was not as bad. The wall pushed me forwards, then took me back.’

***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

‘I sat, leaning my paper against the lid of the open box. Brush to the paper, it was not long before I was immersed in the sky over the mountain – an upward sweep of grey and white cloud infused with light, over blue – then the summit of Wallis beneath. Brown and green and purple over green. It was Wallis as I had seen him, and it was more. It was the inside come to the outside.’ **Sofie Laguna**

9 **‘Each painting was a window.’ Sofie Laguna**

‘For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest.’ Mark 4:22 (ESV)

‘If anyone loves God he is known by God.’ 1 Corinthians 8:3 (ESV)

‘Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work. In the end, the legacy that matters won’t be what you built in the world. It will be who you raised and whether they felt safe, seen, and loved in your presence.’

C. S. Lewis

‘There was nothing and nobody between me and the natural world. Mother was gone. Mrs Barry was gone, and Paul had moved away. I was alone, with nobody to observe me or think a thought about me or want something from me or be disappointed. All of Beverly’s spaces – the house, the yard, the shed and woodpile and outhouse – were now private.’ ***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

‘Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing. Everything is beautiful...’ Master Pissarro to his son Lucien, 1893 **Sofie Laguna**

‘Who cared what made the painting? Only that it was made. Only to do it and do it and do it. The leaves formed under my brush until they made a canopy, sheltering me as I worked.’ **Sofie Laguna**

10

‘Not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you.’ Joshua 23:14 (ESV)

‘And he (Jesus) was beside the sea.’ Mark 5:21 (ESV)

‘God has embedded a hunger for beauty in the human spirit.’ **Conor Sweetman**

‘I copied the words on paper with a pencil, travelling the letters, each one its own miniature sketch. A sentence, like a painting, was a road.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

‘The oils Paul brought me allowed me the freedom of exploration; I could work on a single painting for days, travelling deeper, making changes, staying longer in the smallest places. I was as a man who had been hungry all his life and was only now taking his dinner... Painting was a play between my eyes and my hands, two parts that spoke to each other when other parts could not.’ **Sofie Laguna**

11

‘Choose this day whom you will serve.’ Joshua 24:15 (ESV)

‘If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.’ Mark 5:28 (ESV)

‘After the Holocaust some people lost their faith in God. But after the Holocaust it is morally impossible to believe in man... The Holocaust may make some lose their faith in God, but it must make all people lose their faith in humankind.’ **Jonathan Sacks**
(renowned Jewish thinker)

‘The written word held more of the light than the spoken... What a joy it was to make a word, each one with its own shape, to communicate its meaning.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

‘Perhaps the answer to the question, ‘Where did Mother go?’ was contained within the act of painting. Perhaps that was why I did it so often since she died. Every time the landscape asked to be painted – the mountain, the fields, the valleys – it was trying to reveal to me something about its living self, but it was also an attempt to answer the

broader question, 'Where did Mother go?' ... To paint the living was to express its temporary nature, its fleeting beauty.' **Sofie Laguna**

12

'He marvelled because of their unbelief.' Mark 6:6 (ESV)

'I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.'
1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)

'The canvas, like every canvas in the room, seemed to me to be a living thing, not merely an object, plain and ordinary, but a soul contained within the object... Today, trapped in the house, I saw my paintings as if they were family, springing from the same source. My children, here, against the walls of Beverly.' ***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

'I had created the paintings, and the paintings repaid my efforts by shielding me from the outside world.' **Sofie Laguna**

'The floor was thick with my drawings: the heart of the orchard, over and over; wattle flowers on the branch, the same branch from every angle; the sprouting onion, the onion in half, the onion skin. I was suffocating.' **Sofie Laguna**

13

'Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.' 1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

'No good thing does the Lord God withhold from those who walk uprightly.' Psalm 84:11 (ESV)

To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.
William Blake

'I placed my hand on the trunk of a peeling stringybark, his body papery and rough, then crossed to another and another along the path, touching their trunks and branches, the

skin alive under my hands. Warmth spread from my centre, out through my clothes.'

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

'Every night that followed, I pulled on my winter coat, my black woollen hat, and walked across the field to the first outcrop on the mountain. There, I lay on my back on the rocks and looked to the sky. Each night the waxing moon glowed brighter, bathing me in its light. And as I was drawn upwards, I was made young again, as if the years of my manhood had never been lived.' **Sofie Laguna**

14

'They shall become thorns in your sides.' Judges 2:3 (ESV)

'We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.' 1 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV)

'The safest road to Hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.'

The Screwtape Letters - C. S. Lewis

'The brush and the paint drew me back into the night. Black paint covered my hands. I was at the work of discovery, learning the texture, the density, and the light of night.'

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

'The teapot that steeped the leaves, the pale pink lines of the chipped cup, the lemons, shrinking and withering, the wool in the basket, the feathers – the way these objects sat beside each other, their relationship accidental and yet meaningful, intended, contradictory.' **Sofie Laguna**

15

'Restore us again, O God of our salvation.' Psalm 85:4 (ESV)

'The leaders took the lead in Israel; the people offered themselves willingly.' Judges 5:2 (ESV)

‘To let each moment teach us, we must allow ourselves to be at least slightly stunned by it until it draws us inward and upward, toward a subtle experience of wonder.’

Fr. Richard Rohr

‘There are two ways to be fooled: one is to believe what isn’t true, the other is to refuse to believe what is true.’ **Søren Kierkegaard**

‘But how pleasurable it was to walk the boundaries of Beverly unobserved. To breathe the air, to witness my surroundings, to speak words. ‘Reformation! Labyrinth! Propensity!’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

‘A painting demanded much. I had not known until now, how much. A painting asked me to walk down its road knowing there was no end, an act of surrender.’ **Sofie Laguna**

16

‘He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.’ Mark 6:34 (ESV)

‘Show me a sign of your favour.’ Psalm 86:17 (ESV)

‘Every period of life is obliged to borrow its happiness from the time to come.’

Samuel Johnson

‘We are happiest when hopeful, perhaps only then. Hope is the belief that the blur of our lives will be resolved on some far out horizon - something else awaits.’ **Henry Oliver**

‘I sat beside the boy, leaning on my hands as we faced Wallis. Summer showed his every corrugation; the mountain had shed the fears of the colder months and was ready to be seen.’ **Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna**

‘A portrait of a man on one of the pages caught my eye. I ran my fingers over his face, his brown coat with its high collar. *What is it that you want?* he seemed to ask.’

Sofie Laguna

17

‘If I have found favour in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me.’ Judges 6:17 (ESV)

‘For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself.’ 1 Corinthians 11:29 (ESV)

‘We’ve learned to fly the air like birds, we’ve learned to swim the sea like fish. And yet we haven’t learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters.’ **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

‘We are like books. Most people only see our cover, the minority read only the introduction, many people believe the critics. Few will know our content.’ **Emile Zola**

‘I was aware of the silence. Silence between ourselves. Silence within ourselves.

It was as if all space within me had been cluttered with that which I didn’t need – fearful thoughts, thoughts of anger and dread, as well as the small irritations of every day, the tedium of living, my needs, was now emptying from me.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

18

‘Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rocks and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes.’ Judges 6:21 (ESV)

‘Is your righteousness known in *the land of forgetfulness?*’ Psalm 88:12 (ESV)

‘Forgiveness is not about denying what happened or excusing the offender’s actions. It’s about releasing the hold that the past has on our present. It’s about choosing to no longer be defined by the pain.’ **Lysa Terkeurst**

‘The best people possess a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, the discipline to tell the truth, the capacity for sacrifice. Ironically, their virtues make them vulnerable; they are often wounded, sometimes destroyed.’ **Ernest Hemingway**

‘I knew the days and the months by the way the landscape changed. I knew the month by the colour of the grass in the fields, by the nature of the skies, by the temperature and whether the stream held water, whether the orchids were in bloom.’

Infinite Splendours - Sofie Laguna

19

‘He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.’ Mark 7:37 (ESV)

‘For the body does not consist of one member but of many.’ 1 Corinthians 12:14 *ESV)

‘To worship God means to recognise that mind and intelligence are woven into the fabric of our universe in a way that altogether passes our comprehension.’

Freeman Dyson

‘Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally; he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic.’ **Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

‘I stayed within the house. I was exhausted. I was on fire within Beverly’s walls. I was dying of a thirst that could not be quenched.’ ***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

20

‘God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing...’ 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

‘Blessed are the people who know the festal shout.’ Psalm 89:15 (ESV)

‘If you feel pain, you are alive. If you feel other people’s pain, you are a human being.’

Leo Tolstoy

‘Loneliness is not just the absence of people. It is the absence of purpose, the absence of meaning. When you find yourself in a world where everything seems alien and distant, where every connection is superficial, and every attempt at understanding is met with indifference, you realise that true loneliness is not being alone, but feeling alone in a world that no longer makes sense.’ ***Norwegian Wood* - Haruki Murakami**

‘There was a world outside the cell that I could not be part of, so much of it, so full of information, so busy. I could not absorb it. Had no space.’

***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

21

‘No sign will be given to this generation.’ Mark 8:12 (ESV)

‘For we know in part and we prophecy in part.’ 1 Corinthians 13:9 (ESV)

‘If anything has been lost from our culture, it is the idea that human beings are privately, personally, individually, ultimately, inexorably accountable to God for their lives.’

R. C. Sproul

‘I was alone. I had been alone since I was a boy of ten.’

***Infinite Splendours* - Sofie Laguna**

‘My stride was long, my body powerful, all parts in communion...I was on my way; today I would learn, where did the road lead?’ **Sofie Laguna**

‘As music is the poetry of sound, so is painting the poetry of sight.’ **Master Whistler**

22

‘Establish the work of our hands.’ Psalm 90:17

‘Pursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.’ 1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

‘Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.’ Psalm 90:12 (ESV)

‘Ships don’t sink because of the waters that surround them but because of the waters that enter into them. Therefore, don’t let what surrounds you fill your soul and drag you down.’ **Patriach Pavle of Serbia**

‘When I observe a child learning to walk, it feels as if the joy of exploration and mastery is the most powerful thing in the world.’ ***Walking: One Step at a Time* - Erling Kagge**

‘Journeys of discovery are not something you start doing, but something you gradually stop doing.’ **Erling Kagge**

23

‘Strive to excel in building up the church.’ 1 Corinthians 14:12 (ESV)

‘You have made the Lord your dwelling place.’ Psalm 91:9 (ESV)

‘Human languages reflect the idea that life is one single long walk. In Sanskrit, one of the world’s oldest languages, originating from India, the past tense is designated as the word ‘gata,’ *that which we have walked*, and the future is ‘anagata,’ *that which we have not yet walked*.’ **Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge**

‘All my walks have been different but looking back I see one common denominator: inner silence.’ **Erling Kagge**

24

‘For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.’ 1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV)

‘They still bear fruit in old age.’ Psalm 92:14 (ESV)

‘You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you.’ **Frederick Buechner**

‘Walking and silence belong together. Silence is as abstract as walking is concrete.’
Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge

‘Everything moves more slowly when I walk. I become the centre of my own life.’
Erling Kagge

‘Life is prolonged when you walk.’ **Erling Kagge**

25

‘It is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.’ 1 Corinthians 15:46 (ESV)

‘The eyes of the Lord are towards the righteous.’ Psalm 34:15 (ESV)

‘Humans should, as the philosopher Martin Heidegger maintains, be willing to burden themselves in order to be free. If you always choose the path of least resistance, the alternative that offers the fewest challenges will always take priority.’

Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge

‘So much of our life is fast paced. Walking is a slow undertaking. It is among the most radical things you can do.’ **Erling Kagge**

26

‘The price of wisdom is above pearls.’ Job 28:18 (ESV)

‘Seek the Lord while he may be found.’ Isaiah 55:6 (ESV)

‘Walking sometimes means undertaking an inner voyage of discovery.’

Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge

‘When I walk, I feel I have the gift of an additional stretch of time to transition myself from one reality to another.’ **Erling Kagge**

‘There is a secret bond between slowness and memory, between speed and forgetting.’

Slowness - Milan Kundera

‘As one walks, unimportant thoughts and experiences mingle with deeply important ones.’ **Erling Kagge**

27

‘The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.’ Isaiah 11:9 (ESV)

‘He brought his people out of Egypt with Joy.’ Psalm 105:43 (ESV)

‘With the utmost love and attention, the man who walks must study and observe every smallest living thing.’ ***Walking: One Step at a Time - Erling Kagge***

‘Those who require a fresh perspective, or new ideas, would benefit from a walk.’

Erling Kagge

‘Only pain and want can be positively felt.’ **Arthur Schopenhauer**

‘To walk is to enjoy simple pleasures.’ **Erling Kagge**

‘It is hard to walk away from heartbreak.’ **Erling Kagge**

28

‘Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord?’ Isaiah 40:13 (ESV)

‘Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord.’ Hosea 10:12 (ESV)

‘Holy Spirit, revive us today. Surprise us with Your power and Your presence as we gather. Heal the sick, speak words of faith and comfort, bind up broken hearts, grant us repentance, pour out Your gifts of grace, and renew in us an all-consuming passion for Jesus.’

‘Walking is man’s best medicine.’ ***Walking: One Step at a Time* - Erling Kagge**

‘Above all, do not lose your desire to walk every day. I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away from every illness.’ **Søren Kierkegaard**

‘A walk refreshes and comforts and delights.’ **Erling Kagge**

29

‘They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.’ Isaiah 40:29 (ESV)

‘Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.’ Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

‘The longer you walk - your dependence of external stimuli decreases, you are torn away from the expectations of others, and your walk takes on a more internal character.’ ***Walking: One Step at a Time* - Erling Kagge**

‘The longer I walk, the less I differentiate between my body, my mind, and my surroundings. The external and the internal worlds overlap.’ **Erling Kagge**

30

‘He dies for lack of discipline.’ Proverbs 5:23 (ESV)

‘The one who is not against us is for us.’ Mark 9:40 (ESV)

‘Walking and movement constitute the basis for exploration, and exploration is the basis for our intellect.’ ***Walking: One Step at a Time* - Erling Kagge**

‘To walk is to know. Knowledge follows experience.’ **Erling Kagge**

‘When the renowned Jewish thinker Jonathan Sacks confronted the question of where God was at Auschwitz, he said that God had been there in the words ‘You shall not murder.’ He was there in the words ‘Do not oppress the stranger,’ in the words ‘Your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.’ **Rupert Shortt**

May

1

‘The God of all Comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction.’ 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 (ESV)

‘His hands formed the dry land.’ Psalm 95:5 (ESV)

‘God gave us freedom and freedom means that if we do well, we are a little lower than the angels. But if we do bad, we are lower even than the beasts.’ **Jonathan Sacks**

‘God teaches what is good and what is evil, what we should do and what we should not do. But God does not intervene to force us to do good, or to prevent us from doing evil.’

Jonathan Sacks

‘I’m just talking to keep you here listening. I certainly didn’t mean to break your heart.’

Jack - Marilynne Robinson

2

‘What God has joined together, let not man separate.’ Mark 10:9 (ESV)

‘We behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity.’ 2 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)

‘Some people kept their faith, and some people found faith in God. But after the Holocaust it is morally impossible to believe in man.’ **Jonathan Sacks**

‘The Holocaust is the final decisive refutation of the idea that you can have a humane civilisation without fear of heaven and without belief in the sanctity of life.’

Jonathan Sacks

‘His mere presence might have broken a spell of some kind, disrupted the primal fear that loneliness is contagious, which puts the seal on isolation.’

Jack - Marilynne Robinson

3

‘All the promises of God find their Yes in him.’ 2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV)

‘All the trees of the forest sing for joy.’ Psalm 96:12 (ESV)

‘The Holocaust may make some lose their faith in God, but it must make all people lose their faith in humankind. After Auschwitz you have to be either very ignorant or very naïve to believe in secular humanism. The real challenge of the Shoah is not to faith, but to lack of faith.’ **Jonathan Sacks**

‘Their lives were parallel lines that would not meet, he knew that, he would see to that. But they defined each other, somehow. Equidistant was like silence. It had to be carefully sustained to exist at all.’ **Jack - Marilynne Robinson**

4

‘For all things are possible with God.’ Mark 10:27 (ESV)

‘The mountains melt like wax before the Lord.’ Psalm 97:5 (ESV)

‘The world is big, and I want to have a good look at it before it gets dark.’ **John Muir**

‘You should sit in nature for 20 minutes a day... unless you’re busy, then you should sit for an hour.’

‘This was misery enough to justify a drink. A binge, in fact. But for some reason he just spent most of the night lying on his bed, feeling an elemental loneliness pour into his bones, that coldness that inheres in things, left to themselves.’

Jack - Marilynne Robinson

5

‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.’ Mark 10:47 (ESV)

‘The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.’
2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)

‘The safest road to Hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.’

The Screwtape Letters - C. S. Lewis

The minister, half a head shorter than he and two steps above him, studied his face. ‘Well, I’m glad to hear that,’ he said. ‘Sometimes when people come to me with, you know, big questions, I find out that there’s something else on their minds. Besides that question.’ **Jack - Marilynne Robinson**

‘Jack was startled when he heard the word “suicide,” though he was the one who said it. Well, another thing to worry about.’ **Marilynne Robinson**

6

‘The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers.’ 2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)

‘Have faith in God.’ Mark 11:22 (ESV)

‘Sailors have an expression about the weather: they say, the weather is a great bluffer. I guess the same is true of our human society - things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed, sometimes rather suddenly.’ E. B. White

When she did well in the church school, her father said, ‘You have a good head. But being curious is even more important.’ ***The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese***

7

‘For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.’ 2 Corinthians 4:18 (ESV)

‘For nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.’ 1 Samuel 14:6 (ESV)

The chaos and hurt in God’s world are unfathomable mysteries, yet the Bible shows her that there is order beneath. As her father would say, ‘Faith is to know the pattern is there, even though none is visible.’ ***The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese***

The church is consecrated by one of the twelve (Thomas); he stood on the ground where she stands, the one apostle who touched Christ’s wounds. She feels an understanding beyond imagination, a voice that speaks without sound or motion. It says, ‘I am with you always.’ **Abraham Verghese**

8

‘For we walk by faith, not by sight.’ 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)

‘To obey is better than sacrifice.’ 1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)

‘One can never read too little or too much of good books: bad books are intellectual poison; they destroy the mind.’ **Arthur Schopenhauer (19th Century German philosopher)**

‘But in their revealing, as in their keeping, secrets can tear a family apart.’
The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘No prayers, no words will come to her mouth. Does God feel her disappointment? Eventually she says, ‘Lord, I’m not going to keep asking. You see the obstacles in my path. If you want me in church, then you must help. That’s all I’ll say. Amen’
Abraham Verghese

9 **‘Forget not all his benefits.’ Psalm 103:2**

‘In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19 (ESV)

‘Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

But God’s time isn’t the same as hers. God’s calendar isn’t the one hanging in the kitchen. ‘To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.’
The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘The past is uncertain, and only the future is certain, and she must look to it with faith that the pattern will be revealed.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘Even misery, when familiar, has its own comfort.’ **Abraham Verghese**

10

‘Our heart is wide open.’ 2 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

‘Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.’ 1 Samuel 16:14 (ESV)

‘He is careful of what he reads, for that is what he will write. He is careful of what he reads, for that is what he will know.’ **Annie Dillard**

‘The horizon rises and then dips; the salt spray is cool on his face; he has the sensation of standing still while plunging towards his future.’

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘What’s for ye won’t go by ye,’ Digby thinks. It was a phrase his mother would use - whatever is in his destiny will come to him, regardless.’ **Abraham Verghese**

11

‘For you felt a godly grief.’ 2 Corinthians 7:9 (ESV)

‘For my days pass away like smoke.’ Psalm 102:3 (ESV)

‘Secrecy lives in the same room as loneliness. His secret - and his failing - is that after his mother’s betrayal, he cannot risk love.’

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘The solidarity of so many worshippers, all bearing their own troubles, gave her strength.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘She finds solace and sanity in her garden.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘A daughter has an open door into a father’s heart.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘The retreat facilitator encourages Rune by quiet example: Service, Prayer Silence.’
Abraham Verghese

12

‘Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him.’ 1 Samuel 18:12 (ESV)

‘He is not God of the dead, but of the living.’ Mark 12:27 (ESV)

‘Fiction is a great lie that tells the truth about how the world lives.’

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘You cannot walk across a lake just because you change its name to land. Labels matter.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘The animation in his voice is returning, like a parched shrub uncurling after the rain.’

Abraham Verghese

‘Like his father, he becomes a prodigious walker... A walker sees more and knows more, so he tells himself.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘Success is not money! Success is when you are fully loving what you are doing. That only is success.’ **Abraham Verghese**

13

‘Say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.’ Mark 13:11 (ESV)

‘If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.’ 2 Corinthians 11:30 (ESV)

‘The best way to prepare for what’s ahead is to be present to what is now.’

Ann Voskamp

‘To be listened to is healing, as is the brick-red tea, thick with milk, strongly sweetened and with fat cardamom pods floating on top.’

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

‘I have been bent and broken but I hope into better shape.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘Life comes from God and life is precious precisely because it’s brief. God’s gift is time. However much or however little one has of it; It comes from him.’ **Abraham Verghese**

14

'Stay awake.' Mark 13:37

'He will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds.' Mark 13:27
Don't grieve for all that is gone, wonder that it was at all.'

'David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.' 1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV)

'Don't grieve for all that is gone, wonder that it was at all.'

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

'The antidote to shame is indignation, righteous anger.' **Abraham Verghese**

'My son has become a knife that cannot slice, a fire that cannot warm a pot of coffee.'

Abraham Verghese

'They are perfectly matched, he thinks, both of them weathered by grief and time. And what is time but cumulative loss.' **Abraham Verghese**

15

'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

'He satisfies my longing soul.' Psalm 107:9 (ESV)

'Emotions always feel lighter and less important in retrospect.' **Silvio Castelletti**

'The child fills its lungs and squalls a glorious sound, a universal language, the first utterance of a new life.' ***The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese***

'The river is merciless to those who underestimate it, and it is never the same river twice.' **Abraham Verghese**

It is not faith that brings him to evening prayers or to church; he needed such rituals to rebuild his faith in himself.' **Abraham Verghese**

16

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’ Mark 14:24 (ESV)

‘Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.’ 2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

‘God loves stories. God lets each of us make our own story with our lives. Yours will be unlike anyone else’s. Remember that.’ ***The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese***

‘What is worry but fear of what the future holds.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘We are merely renting these bodies of ours. You came into this world on an in breath. You will exit on an out breath. **Abraham Verghese**

17

‘And David did as the Lord commanded.’ 2 Samuel 5:25 (ESV)

‘Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ Mark 14:38 (ESV)

‘Each of us has a characteristic way of showing up in the world, a physical and mental presence that sets a tone for how people will interact with us.’

How To Know a Person - David Brooks

‘We do not have children to fulfil our dreams. Children allow us to let go of dreams we were never meant to fulfil.’ ***The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese***

‘When one lived alone, the loudest laughter went unwitnessed and therefore was no better than silence.’ **Abraham Verghese**

‘Worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life, and faith is the oil.’

E. Stanley Jones

18

If righteousness was through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.’ Galatians 2:21 (ESV)

‘The works of his hands are faithful and just.’ Psalm 111:7 (ESV)

‘We need stories to survive, to overcome difficult moments. Without stories our lives fade into insignificance, an undefinable and indescribable state where existence doesn’t matter.’ **Silvio Castelletti**

‘The water she first stepped into minutes ago is long gone and yet it is here, past and present and future inexorably coupled, like time made incarnate. This is the covenant of water: that they are all linked inescapably by their acts of commission and omission, and no one stands alone.’ **The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese**

19 **‘I give myself to prayer.’ Psalm 109:4**

‘In Christ you are all sons of God.’ Galatians 3:26 (ESV)

‘I bear in my body the marks of Jesus.’ Galatians 6:17 (ESV)

‘Imagine what you could accomplish if you weren’t focused on being right all the time.’

‘Such precious, precious water; Lord, water from our own well; this water that is our covenant with you, with this soul, with the life You granted us. We are born and baptised in this water, we grow full of pride, we sin, we are broken, we suffer, but with water we are cleansed of our transgressions, we are forgiven, and we are born again, day after day, until the end of our days.’ **The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese**

20

‘And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father!’ Galatians 4:6 (ESV)

‘May the Lord give you increase, you and your children.’ Psalm 115 :14 (ESV)

‘A child’s own story is a dream, but a good story is a dream that is true for more than one child.’ **Margaret Wise Brown**

‘There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of food.’ **Mahatma Gandhi**

When we gather now there is always someone missing, his absence as present as our presence, his silence as loud as our speech. Still five children, but one always gone.’
Nicholas Wolterstorff

21

‘The dead do not praise the Lord.’ Psalm 115:17 (ESV)

‘For in Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.’ Galatians 5:6 (ESV)

‘Without courage we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.’ **Maya Angelou**

‘Everyone needs beauty as well as bread.’ **John Muir**

‘Giant miseries and giant hopes can carry on their wars in the merest cranny.’

Jack - Marilynne Robinson

He said, ‘Look at the life we live, Della. I have to sneak over here in the dark just to steal a few words with you. Is that language, or is it noise?’

She said, ‘It’s noise that you have to do it, and language that you do it, anyway.’ She said softly, ‘Maybe poetry.’ **Marilynne Robinson**

22

‘I will call on him as long as I live.’ Psalm 116:2 (ESV)

‘Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.’ Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

‘Old men and old women still get to dream dreams.’ **Ann Voskamp**

‘She was young, the daughter of a protective family. She might have no idea yet that embarrassment, relentless, punitive scorn, can wear away at a soul until it recedes into wordless loneliness.’ **Jack - Marilynne Robinson**

‘He was a creature at home in its element, more or less. The thought of a benign presence takes the curse of loneliness, for some reason that is as natural as loneliness, a necessary meditation that made the human situation less an embarrassment.’
Marilynne Robinson

23

‘I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.’ Psalm 116:9 (ESV)

‘If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.’ Galatians 5:18 (ESV)

‘The definition of spiritual growth is going from having thin skin and a hard heart to having thick skin and a tender heart.’ **John Stott**

‘The large crowd disappeared inside the chapel and from my open window I could hear the proceedings within: music, a sermon, weeping.’

***Lincoln in the Bardo* – George Saunders**

‘He was the child in whom Lincoln had invested his fondest hopes; a small mirror of himself, as it were, to whom he could speak frankly, openly, and confidingly.’

George Saunders

24

‘If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.’ Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

‘My God lightens my darkness.’ 2 Samuel 2:28 (ESV)

‘To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering.’ **Gordon Allport**

‘One feels such love for the little ones, such anticipation that all that is lovely in life will be known by them, such fondness for that set of attributes manifested uniquely in each: mannerisms of bravado, of vulnerability, habits of speech and mispronouncement and so forth; the smell of the hair and head, the feel of the tiny hand in yours—and then the little one is gone! Taken! One is thunderstruck that such a brutal violation has occurred in what had previously seemed a benevolent world. From nothingness, there arose great love; now, its source nullified, that love, searching and sick, converts to the most abysmal suffering imaginable.

***Lincoln in the Bardo* – George Saunders**

‘He was not perfect; he was, remember, a little boy. Could be wild, naughty, overwrought. He was *a boy*. However – it must be said – he was quite a *good boy*.’

George Saunders

25

‘God shows steadfast love to his anointed.’ 2 Samuel 22:51 (ESV)

‘Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.’ Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

‘Hope doesn’t have an expiry date.’ **Ann Voskamp**

‘We have loved each other well, dear Willie, but now, for reasons we cannot understand, that bond has been broken. But our bond can never be broken. As long as I live, you will always be with me, child.’ ***Lincoln in the Bardo* – George Saunders**

‘What I mean to say is, we had been *considerable*. Had been *loved*. Not lonely, not lost, not freakish, but wise, each in his or her own way. Our departures caused pain. Those who had loved us sat upon their beds, heads in hand; lowered their faces to tabletops, making animal noises. We had been loved, I say, and remembering us, even many years later, people would smile, briefly gladdened at the memory. (the Reverend Everly Thomas) **George Saunders**

26

‘The Lord is my strength and my song.’ Psalm 118:14 (ESV)

‘The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.’ 2 Samuel 23:2 (ESV)

‘One of the marks of a certain type of bad man is that he cannot give up a thing himself without wanting everyone else to give it up. That is not the Christian way.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘We are here by grace, the Reverend said. Our ability to abide far from assured. Therefore, we must conserve our strength, restricting our activities to only those which directly serve our central purpose. We would not wish, through profligate activity, to appear ungrateful for the mysterious blessing of our continued abiding. For we are here, but for how long, or by what special dispensation, it is not ours to...’

***Lincoln in the Bardo* – George Saunders**

‘Mary Lincoln’s mental health had never been good, and the loss of young Willie ended her life as a functional wife and mother.’ **George Saunders**

‘Some blows fall too heavy upon those too fragile.’ **George Saunders**

27

‘I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.’ 2 Samuel 24:24 (ESV)

‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word.’ Luke 1:38 (ESV)

‘God always allows us to feel the frailty of human love so we will appreciate the strength of His.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘No one is obliged to learn something from loss.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘The past is quicksand, and the future is unknowable, but in the present you get to float.’ **Sloane Crosley**

28

‘Grief is for people, not things.’ Sloane Crosley

‘The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.’ Luke 1:80 (ESV)

‘I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.’ Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

‘There is no habit you will value as much as that of walking far without fatigue.’

Thomas Jefferson

‘Human beings are the only animals that experience denial. It is humankind’s specialty, our handy aversion. We are so allergic to our own mortality; we’ll do anything to make it not so.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

29

‘You will worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’ Luke 4:8 (ESV)

‘Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.’ Psalm 50:14 (ESV)

Most traumatic events present their size and shape fairly quickly. But some unfurl slowly, like a fist loosening its grip.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘You can identify what you would save in a fire all you want, but you will only ever be mostly right.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘The robbery is gestating, maximizing, and minimizing with each breath. I need silence so I can listen to it, so that I can understand its size.’ **Sloane Crosley**

30 **‘We each have our lily pads of discontent.’ Sloane Crosley**

‘In him you also... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.’ Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

‘I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.’ Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

‘He had spent his life trying to blend into a world in which he could never fully be himself, where repression was the price of acceptance.’

Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley

‘No one is the first person to whom bad things have happened.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘You become numb when you swallow too much sadness at once.’ **Sloane Crosley**

31

‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you.’ Luke 1:35 (ESV)

‘For all the promises of God find their YES in him.’ Ephesians 1:20 (ESV)

‘People hide behind violation because it eliminates the hierarchy of loss in their favour.’

Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley

‘But for all of Russell’s surface joy, there is a well of darkness inside him, a pond that he can dip his hand into whenever he likes. It’s not such a nice world. Bad things happen.’

Sloane Crosley

‘The burglary is a tornado, ripping up insecurities, exposing their roots.’ **Sloane Crosley**

June

1

‘Give your servant an understanding mind.’ 1 Kings 3:9 (ESV)

‘For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.’ Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

‘Maybe it’s not that we loved these objects too much but that they are all the proof we have of the people who came before us.’ ***Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley***

‘Time does not stop but it rises, becoming out of reach.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘I get up and walk west through Central Park, looking up at the trees. Do you have anything to say for yourself, trees? No, of course not. You live to expand, not contract. Suicide is above your pay grade.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘Strangers who can spot the difference between a bad day and a break in life.’
Sloane Crosley

2

‘The wisdom of God was in him to do justice.’ 1 Kings 3:8 (ESV)

‘Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counsellors.’ Psalm 119:24 (ESV)

‘When you die by suicide, you die alone. With few exceptions, you die alone. I don’t think people talk about this enough when they talk about suicide, if they talk about it at all. The ending of one’s life is the thing.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘I am angry. It’s too soon to be this angry. I know the stages of grief are not linear, nor are they solid enough to be hidden under shells and slid around, but something is off.’
Sloane Crosley

‘I start shutting out friends. With some, I can’t stand to see my pain reflected in their eyes. There are craters in their timelines, as well, ancient holes in the shape of someone gone too soon.’ **Sloane Crosley**

3

‘You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.’ Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

‘Strengthen me according to your word.’ Psalm 119:28 (ESV)

‘A work of art is good if it has sprung from necessity.’ **Rainer Maria Rilke**

‘I find it hard to believe any suicidal person knows the exact dimensions of what they are hiding.’ ***Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley***

‘We all have something we are trying to fend off. The question is how big and with what?’
Sloane Crosley

‘The miracle of life is not that we have it, it’s that most of us wake up every day and agree to fight for it, to hold it in our arms even when it squirms to get away.’
Sloane Crosley

4

‘The mystery was made known to me by revelation.’ Ephesians 3:3 (ESV)

‘You, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind.’ 1 Kings 8:39 (ESV)

‘Suicide is a tax on human consciousness. Most people pay this tax in undetectable denominations. Like wondering what would happen if they stand too close to the cliff’s edge or thinking ‘don’t jump’ as the train comes charging down the tracks - they fear the mere option will override their free will. But some pay this tax dearly. Some pay it with their lives.’ ***Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley***

5

‘So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might be made known.’
Ephesians 3:10 (ESV)

‘A light for revelation to the Gentiles.’ Luke 2:22 (ESV)

‘The creator must be a world for himself and find everything in himself and in nature to whom he has attached himself.’ **Rainer Maria Rilke**

‘But now the idea of suicide as contagious, as a baton pass, comes naturally.’
Grief is For People - Sloane Crosley

‘I want so badly to be like Russell... He banked his pain in some secret place where no one could see it, and maybe I can do the same. Maybe I can put mine in a cabinet. But the drawers keep popping open.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘At night, the hole in my heart was like a wind tunnel that whistled straight through until dawn.’ **Sloane Crosley**

6 ‘What is bad for the hive is bad for the bee.’ **Marcus Aurelius**

‘Strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.’ Ephesians 3:16 (ESV)

‘Your promise gives me life.’ Psalm 119:50 (ESV)

‘Suicide itself such an isolating death, wants its mourning to be solitary. It wants you to scatter and shrink, for everyone to curl up in their respective balls.’

***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘The needs of the living are more important than the wants of the dead.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘If a rising tide lifts all boats, a whirlpool pulls them all to the bottom.’ **Sloane Crosley**

7

‘There is one body and one Spirit.’ Ephesians 4:4 (ESV)

‘Your hands have made and fashioned me.’ Psalm 119:73 (ESV)

‘Committed people do what interested people want.’ **Shane Parrish**

‘Grief groups exist for people. They are populated by people who do not want to be there. No one sitting in a folding chair needs to be convinced of her suffering. No one comes to be cowed by the worseness of someone else’s story. This is especially true of suicide... No two are alike.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘The printed word should never be mistaken for the final word.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘Heavy is the enchantment of places you know you will never see again.’

Sloane Crosley

8

‘When each part is working properly, it makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.’ Ephesians 4:16 (ESV)

‘Nobody can tell us how to feel about something.’ **Alexi Pappas**

‘If you have no boundaries, you have no self-knowledge.’

***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘Grief insomnia has a mouth on it: Time does not heal all wounds. Time does not heal any wounds... Time only pushes wounds aside.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘Anxiety is an ever-present stage of grief; a shadow attached to the heels of its more infamous siblings.’ **Sloane Crosley**

9

‘Give no opportunity to the devil.’ Ephesians 4:27 (ESV)

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me.’ Luke 4:18 (ESV)

‘Just because other people have experienced the same trauma, that doesn’t mean you have to talk to them about it.’ ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘Life is a struggle, and the struggle brings joy.’ **Edwin Leap**

‘It is easy to see the beginning of things, and harder to see the ends.’ **Joan Didion**

‘The more you try to avoid suffering, the more you suffer, because smaller and more insignificant things begin to torture you, in proportion to your fear of being hurt. The one who does most to avoid suffering is, in the end, the one who suffers most.’

Thomas Merton

10

‘Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.’ Ephesians 5:10 (ESV)

‘Passing through their midst, he went away.’ Luke 4:30 (ESV)

‘More is missed by not looking than not knowing.’ **Thomas McCrae**

‘We learn to grieve by grieving.’ **Tomas Moniz**

‘Old is just another word for nothing left to lose.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘As we age, it is important to get clear about the difference between the jobs by which we make a living and the callings, or vocations, by which we make meaning.’

Parker J. Palmer

‘Wholeness does not mean perfection - it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

11

‘Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord.’
Ephesians 6:8 (ESV)

‘For ever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.’ Psalm 119:89 (ESV)

‘Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death.’ **Arthur Schopenhauer**

‘We come from mystery, and we return to mystery.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘There is nothing like a walk in the woods, into the mountains, alongside the ocean, or in the desert, to put my life in perspective.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘Those of us who are able should be raising hell on behalf of whatever we care about.’

Parker J. Palmer

12

‘What are you doing here, Elijah? 1 Kings 19:9 (ESV)

‘They were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.’ Luke 4:32 (ESV)

‘The greatest sign of an ill-regulated mind is to believe things because you wish them to be so.’ **Louis Pasteur**

‘Paths that lead to meaning have to be hacked out of complexity and confusion.’
***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘The word *integrity* comes from the root that means intact. It has to do with being integral, whole, and undivided.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘To grow in love and service, you must value ignorance as much as knowledge and failure as much as success.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

13

‘Love incorruptible.’ Ephesians 6:24

‘In all circumstances take up the shield of faith.’ Ephesians 6:16 (ESV)

‘How sweet are your words to my taste.’ Psalm 119:103 (ESV)

‘Uplifting endings and resolutely cheery worldviews are appropriate to television commercials but insulting elsewhere.’ **Joyce Carol Oates**

‘There are millions of children in this country who long to be treasured, not measured.’
***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Compassionate people are often broken-hearted people whose hearts have been broken rather than broken apart.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘If you hold a healthy awareness of your own mortality, your eyes will be opened to the glory and grandeur of life.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

14

‘As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that I will speak.’ 1 Kings 22:14 (ESV)

‘And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place.’ Luke 4:42 (ESV)

‘I do not mean to be sentimental about suffering... but people who cannot suffer can never grow up, can never discover who they are.’ **James Baldwin**

‘Suffering can be transformed into something that brings life, not death.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Men, before you can have a spiritual life, you have got to have a life.’ **Thomas Merton**

‘Catastrophe, too, can be a contemplative path, pitched and perilous as it may be.’

Parker J. Palmer

15

‘It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.’ Philippians 1:9 (ESV)

‘Accept my freewill offering of praise, O Lord.’ Psalm 119:108 (ESV)

‘The children primarily play since that is the foundation for all learning of any kind.’

Trudi - Spring Valley Bruderhof

‘Imparting hope to others has nothing to do with exhorting or cheering them on. It has everything to do with relationships that honour the soul, encourage the heart, inspire the mind, quicken the step, and heal the wounds we suffer along the way.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘If you want to live by values like love, truth, and justice - values that will never be fully achieved - faithfulness is the only standard that will do.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

16

'Make a habit of hope.' Ann Voskamp

'The water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.'
2 Kings 2:22 (ESV)

'But at your word I will let down the nets.' Luke 5:5 (ESV)

'As a Christian, my father taught me that the love of God is the ground on which the rest stands: language, love, and learning are divine projects, calling out the best in us all.'

Joel J. Miller

'A life grounded in the reality of our own nature and our right relationship to the world - allows us to stumble and fall, get back up, brush ourselves off, and take next steps without doing ourselves great harm.' ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

'Peace comes from embracing the interplay of shadow and light.' **Parker J. Palmer**

17

'Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death.' Philippians 1:20 (ESV)

'When the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him.' 2 Kings 3:15 (ESV)

'Commitment not only protects love but helps it grow.'

Marianne - Woodcrest Bruderhof

'To mourn the death of a friend is to feel as if you are walking around with a vase, knowing you have to set it down but nowhere is obvious. Others will assure you that there's no right to do this. Put it anywhere. But you know better. You know that if you put your grief in a place that is too prominent or too hidden, you will take it back when no one is looking.' ***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

18

'The Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me.' 2 Kings 4:27 (ESV)

‘Standing firm in one spirit, with one mind.’ Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

‘We look for the sermon in the suicide.’ ***The White Album* - Joan Didion**

‘The anxiety may have been a blanket, but the sadness was a life.’

***Grief is For People* - Sloane Crosley**

‘You can ignore grief. You can push it around your plate. But you can’t give it away.’

Sloane Crosley

‘Your suicide. A manner of death so frightening, we give it back to the dead as soon as it happens, unhanding it like hot coal.’ **Sloane Crosley**

‘Solitude does not necessarily mean living apart from others - rather it means never living apart from oneself. It is not about the absence of other people - it is about being fully present to ourselves, whether or not we are with others.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

19

‘They ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.’ 2 Kings 4:44 (ESV)

‘The power of the Lord was with him to heal.’ Luke 5:17

‘Ever more people today have the means to live, but no meaning to live for.’

Viktor Frankl

‘Naming the jobs by which I have made a living is not the same as naming the vocation by which I have made meaning.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘It is a bad idea to write to impress, rather than express.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘Like writing, faith is a way of dealing with things that baffle us until we look at them through new eyes.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘Faith is what allows us to live in full awareness of our contradictions - an awareness that breeds the humility that is part and parcel of true faith.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

20

‘But in humility count others more significant than yourselves.’ Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

‘I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’ Luke 5:32 (ESV)

‘Writing from a deeply human place of vulnerability is an act of compassion, as well as self-therapy.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘For a happy marriage between reality and words, reality must be honoured with words that reveal its nature.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘We can never confine the sacred, but the delusion we can dies hard.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘The constant challenge of both faith and writing is to hold the paradox of treasure and the earthen with deepest respect.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

21

‘Give me understanding that I might live.’ Psalm 119:144 (ESV)

‘I hope in the Lord Jesus.’ Philippians 2:19 (ESV)

‘You will never out-give God’s generosity, even if you give away everything that you have... Nor will you give anything that is your own because all things flow from God.’

St. Gregory Nazianzen

‘Our lives leave a trail of words even when we are not speaking.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Anger harnessed as an energy that animates social action on behalf of new life for all is redemptive.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘The broken-open heart is a place of spiritual alchemy, where the dross of hard experience can be transformed into the gold of wisdom.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

22

‘Who worship by the Spirit of God.’ Philippians 3:3 (ESV)

‘For power came out of him and healed them all.’ Luke 6:19 (ESV)

‘Not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die.’ **Anne Lamott**

‘Sanctuary is wherever I find safe space to regain my bearings, reclaim my soul, heal my wounds, and return to the world as a wounded healer. It is not merely about finding shelter from the storm - it is about spiritual survival and the capacity to carry on. Seeking is not optional.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘If you live your life experimentally, the failure will be personal, and some will be spectacular. And yet, as every scientist knows, we often learn more from experiments that fail than from those that succeed.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

23

‘The righteousness from God that depends on faith.’ Philippians 3:9 (ESV)

‘My eyes shed streams of tears because people do not keep your law.’ Psalm 119:136 (ESV)

‘We are to stay faithful to the task of becoming fully human in a world where we can neither survive nor thrive until we embrace the human frailty with reverence and respect.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Joy is the gift of love. Grief is the price of love. Anger is the force that protects that which is loved.’ **Valarie Kaur**

‘Heartbreak comes with the territory called being human. When love and trust fail us, when what once brought meaning goes dry, when a dream drifts out of reach, when a devastating disease strikes, or when someone precious to us dies, our hearts break and we suffer.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

24

‘That I may know him and the power of his resurrection.’ Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

‘Forgive, and you will be forgiven.’ Luke 6:37 (ESV)

‘True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Sometimes we try to numb the pain of suffering in ways that dishonour our souls. We turn to noise, frenzy, nonstop work, and substance abuse as anesthetics that only deepen our suffering.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Only the supple heart can hold suffering in a way that opens to new life. We can make our hearts more supple by stretching them, the way a runner stretches the leg muscles to avoid injury.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

25

‘For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.’ Luke 6:45 (ESV)

‘I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.’ Philippians 4:11 (ESV)

‘People who spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.’ **Thomas Merton**

‘The hopeful notion that new life is hidden in dying is surely reinforced by the visual glories of autumn.’ ***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘In the visible world of nature, a great truth is concealed in plain sight. Diminishment and beauty, darkness and light, death and life, are not opposites: they are held together in the paradox of the ‘hidden wholeness.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

26

‘My God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.’ Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

‘Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.’ Psalm 122:6 (ESV)

‘There are no shortcuts to wholeness. The only way to become whole is to put our arms lovingly around everything we know ourselves to be: self-serving and generous, spiteful and compassionate, cowardly and courageous, treacherous and trustworthy.’

***On the Brink of Everything* - Parker J. Palmer**

‘Watching wilderness overcome devastation has helped me to see how suffering can serve as a seedbed for renewal.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

‘Age itself is no excuse to wade in the shallows. It is a reason to dive deep and take creative risks.’ **Parker J. Palmer**

27 **‘Like a lonely sparrow on a rooftop.’** Psalm 102:7

‘He who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.’ Psalm 101:6 (ESV)

Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’ Luke 7:23 (ESV)

‘To embrace slow productivity is to reorient your work to be a source of meaning instead of overwhelm, while still maintaining the ability to produce valuable output.’

***Slow Productivity* - Cal Newport**

‘Working on fewer things can paradoxically produce more value in the long term: overload generates an untenable quantity of nonproductive overhead.’ **Cal Newport**

Aristotle identified deep contemplation as the most human and worthy of all activities.’
Cal Newport

28

‘Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.’ Psalm 123:3 (ESV)

‘Wisdom is justified by all her children.’ Luke 7:35 (ESV)

‘The reading of a book requires some degree of isolation, of being protected against the presence of others.’ **Hannah Arendt**

‘Do not rush your most important work. Allow it instead to unfold along a sustainable timeline, with variations in intensity, in settings conducive to brilliance.’

Slow Productivity - Cal Newport

‘You should give your efforts the breathing room and respect required to make them a part of a life well lived, not an obstacle to it.’ **Cal Newport**

29

‘Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.’ Psalm 124:8 (ESV)

‘For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.’
Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

‘Working with unceasing activity is artificial and unsustainable. In the moment, it might exude a false sense of usefulness, but when continued over time, it estranges us from our fundamental nature, generates misery, and from a strictly economic perspective, almost certainly holds us back from reaching our full capabilities.’

Slow Productivity - Cal Newport

‘A more natural, slower, varied pace of work is the foundation of true productivity in the long term.’ **Cal Newport**

30

‘Peace be upon Israel.’ Psalm 128:6

‘In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.’ Colossians 1:19 (ESV)

‘Those who sow in tears shall reap with shoots of joy.’ (ESV)

Love means to learn to look at yourself
The way one looks at distant things
For you are only one thing among many.
And whoever sees that way heals his heart,

Without knowing it, from various ills.
A bird and a tree say to him: Friend.
Then he wants to use himself and things
So that they stand in the glow of ripeness.
It doesn't matter whether he knows what he serves:
Who serves best doesn't always understand.

Czeslaw Milosz

July

1

'In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'
Colossians 2:3 (ESV)

'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.' Psalm 127:1 (ESV)

'If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.'

C. S. Lewis

'The slow productivity mindset finds advantages to a more languid pace. Frequent cold starts can inject more creativity into your efforts.' ***Slow Productivity* - Cal Newport**

2

'In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

'For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest.' Luke 8 :17 (ESV)

'A key tenet of slow productivity is that grand achievement is built on the steady accumulation of modest results over time. This path is long. Pace yourself.'

***Slow Productivity* - Cal Newport**

‘It is okay if your efforts to take longer sometimes temporarily lead you off your chosen path. It happens to everyone who has ever tried to accomplish something important.’

Cal Newport

‘Sometimes cultivating a natural pace isn’t just about the time you dedicate to the project, but also the context in which the work is completed.’ **Cal Newport**

3 **‘Peace be upon Israel.’ Psalm 128:6**

‘And he said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ Luke 8:25 (ESV)

‘You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands.’ Psalm 128:2 (ESV)

‘Obsessing over quality often demands that you slow down, as the focus required to get better is simply not compatible with busyness.’ **Slow Productivity - Cal Newport**

‘Give yourself enough time to produce something great, but not unlimited time. Focus on creating something good enough to catch the attention of those whose taste you care about but relieve yourself of the need to forge a masterpiece. Progress is what matters. Not perfection.’ **Cal Newport**

‘Slowing down isn’t about protesting work. It’s instead about finding a better way to do it.’ **Cal Newport**

4

‘So Saul died for his breach of faith.’ 1 Chronicles 10:13 (ESV)

‘And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.’ Luke 8:39 (ESV)

‘Light is only possible through dialogue with cultures, not through rejection of one or the other.’ **The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride**

‘You can never remember the wrongs done to you as long as you live,’ she said, ‘But if you forget ‘em and go on living, it’s almost as good as forgiving.’ **James McBride**

5

‘Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.’ Colossians 3:14 (ESV)

‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.’ Luke 8:48 (ESV)

‘Chona had never been one to play by the rules of American society. She did not experience the world as most people did. To her, the world was not a china closet where you admire this and don’t touch that. Rather, she saw it as a place where every act of living was a chance for *tikkum olam*, to improve the world.’

***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

‘But pretending to know everything and acting like you’re better than you know you are, puts a terrible strain on a body. It makes you a stumbling stone to your own justice.’

James McBride

6

‘Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.’ Colossians 3:15 (ESV)

‘Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy.’ Psalm 130:2 (ESV)

‘The gorgeous cacophony of humanity in wheelchairs, some wearing special eyeglasses, others in hearing aids, signing and gesturing, the winks and chortles and grunts of pleasure, the grimaces and shaking of heads and excited howling of those without ‘normal’ ability. It’s impossible to describe. But it all boils down to the same things. Love.’ ***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

‘In four months, he had become a living embodiment of *l’chaim*, a toast to life.’

James McBride

7

‘Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord.’ Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

‘Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.’ 1 Chronicles 16:10 (ESV)

‘And how Chona regretted, watching his face locked in grief even as he slept, his lip trembling, that she had frittered hours away reading about socialists and unions and progressives and politics and corporations, fighting about a meaningless flag that said, ‘I’m proud to be an American,’ when it should have said, ‘I’m happy to be alive,’ and what the difference was, and how one’s tribe cannot be better than another tribe because they were all one tribe. An extraordinary wisdom came upon her, one she had not imagined possible, and she wanted to share it with him in those first - or perhaps last - moments of her consciousness.’

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride

8

‘Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.’ 1 Chronicles 16:29 (ESV)

‘They went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.’ Luke 9:6 (ESV)

‘Like most Negroes in America, he lived in a nation with statutes and decrees that consigned him as an equal but not equal, his life bound by a set of rules and regulations in matters of equality that largely did not apply to him. His world, his wants, his needs were of little value to anyone but himself.’

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride

‘Chona, for her part, saw them not as Negroes but as neighbours.’ **James McBride**

9

‘Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt.’ Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

‘I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.’ Psalm 132:17 (ESV)

‘Read widely but also closely. Notice the openings, the gaps, and the fissures, as well as the unplowed fields, the unplucked branches, and the untrodden paths. Those are the places where your own work can bloom.’ **Lincoln Michel**

‘They produced a piece of jewelry, handed it to him, and asked what it was. A mezuzah, the old man said. It matches the one on the door, the cops said. Don’t these things belong on doors? The old man shrugged. Jewish life is portable, he said.’
***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

10 ‘Be careful now, for the Lord has chosen you.’ 1 Chronicles 28:10

‘I will appoint a place for my people Israel... that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.’ 1 Chronicles 17:9 (ESV)

‘Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.’ Luke 9:24 (ESV)

‘The journey ahead was long. There was no promise ahead. There was no need to rush now.’ ***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

‘Two boys with intelligent minds trapped in bodies that would not cooperate, caged in cribs like toddlers living in an insane asylum... They were cheered by the tiniest of things... It was outrageous. Fortunately, time was something they had a great deal of and they made good use of it.’ **James McBride**

‘Blessed be the One who spoke the world into being.’ **James McBride**

11

‘The Lord will vindicate his people.’ Psalm 135:14 (ESV)

‘I will not offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.’ 1 Chronicles 21:24 (ESV)

‘He read the Talmud aloud to her even as she slept because he knew she loved it so much.’ ***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

‘He was a true Jew, a man of ideas and wit who understood the meaning of celebration and music and that the blend of these things meant life itself.’ **James McBride**

‘Who is the cripple? The one who worships a thing? Or the one who worships something higher?’ **James McBride**

12

‘This is my son, my Chosen One, listen to him.’ Luke 9:35 (ESV)

‘Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit.’
1 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV)

‘Moshe watched spellbound from the wings as Webb, a tiny man with a curved spine clad in a white suit, roared with laughter and enthusiasm as he played, egging his band on from the rear with his masterful drumming, the thunderous band shaking the floor with the rip-roaring waves of gorgeous sound. That man, Moshe decided, was a joy maker. And Moshe could not help but notice that Webb, like his lovely Chona, had a physical disability. Though he was a hunchback of some kind, he moved with a certain feeling of joy, a lightness, as if every moment were precious.’

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride

13 ‘Do not despise prophecies, but test everything.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

‘For the one who is not against you is for you.’ Luke 9:50 (ESV)

‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ Psalm 136:1 (ESV)

‘Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the ‘beloved.’ Being the beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.’ **Henri Nouwen**

Even our church is different. We don’t sing with a piano. We chant the old songs and dance in circles, and we don’t cross our feet when we dance, for that is worldly dancing. Why we do these things I do not know. It’s one of the many things passed down to us from the old people.

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store - James McBride

‘Charity of mind! Without charity of mind, what is life?’ **James McBride**

14

‘The Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.’ 1 Chronicles 28:9 (ESV)

‘No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’ Luke 9:62 (ESV)

‘No is not a no. It is just the beginning of a negotiation.’
***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* - James McBride**

‘It was as if a caterpillar had cracked loose from its cocoon and an evil butterfly was emerging.’ **James McBride**

Differing weights mean differing measures. The Lord knows ‘em both.’ **James McBride**

‘Life in America was hard, but it was free, and if you worked hard, you might gain some opportunity.’ **James McBride**

‘You could go to jail for breaking somebody out of a state hospital.’ **James McBride**

15

‘By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.’ Psalm 137:1 (ESV)

‘I know, my God, that you test the heart.’ 1 Chronicles 29:17 (ESV)

‘God’s presence is not the same as the feeling of God’s presence, and He may be doing most for us when we think He is doing least.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘We are less committed to choices we think we can reverse, and commitment is crucial for happiness.’ **Logan Ury**

‘Sometimes the reason offered for seeking aesthetic excellence in the music of the church is that thereby one pleases God. I think that is true. But not because we know what music God enjoys: though I suspect it must be music which is unified, rich, and intense. Rather, because it is the joy of his people that God finds delight.’

Nicholas Wolterstorff

16

‘Do not forsake the work of your hands.’ Psalms 138:8 (ESV)

‘On the day I called, you answered me.’ Psalm 138:3 (ESV)

‘The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.’ **John Muir**

‘The thirty days following the burial of the dead is called *shloshim*. It is a time of transition for the mourner as he moves away from the inarticulateness of loss and returns to the familiar rhythm of everyday life.’

***I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* - Bernice Eisenstein**

‘Even though the past was something my parents tried to keep at a distance from their children, out of harm’s reach, it inevitably shadowed the landscape in which we would grow.’ **Bernice Eisenstein**

17

‘Do not forsake the work of your hands.’ Psalm 138:8 (ESV)

‘Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’ Luke 10:20 (ESV)

‘Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.’ **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

‘I read to become all-feeling as the daughter of parents who have experienced unimaginable loss. I read in order to be brave, to learn how to navigate my way through

a shape-shifting world. I read for the pure pleasure of how language serves both imagination and will, and to hear the clarity of voices responding to murky reality. In doing so, I discover time and again the ability to find my own.'

***I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* - Bernice Eisenstein**

18 'Joy is always accompanied with an undercurrent of loss.'

Bernice Eisenstein

'That he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness.' 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV)

'In your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me.' Psalm 139:16 (ESV)

'The price of success is paid in private. Visible triumphs are built on invisible work.'

Shane Parrish

'There is no centre to be found in memory, but each place holds its heartbeat.'

***I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* - Bernice Eisenstein**

'I was reminded of the tales in Jewish legend about the *Lamed-vav*, the Unknown Just Men. In every generation, thirty-six men are chosen by God to carry the sorrows of the world. Ordinary men, indistinguishable from other men, unknown to one another.'

Bernice Eisenstein

19

'The dead in Christ will rise first.' 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV)

'You only know the hearts of the children of mankind.' II Chronicles 6:30 (ESV)

'Fear arises when we imagine everything depends on us.' **Elisabeth Elliot**

'Choice is always performed against a background of habit.' **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘Migratory birds cover vast distances yet return with faithful regularity at the appointed time. They live their lives in perpetual motion between their breeding and feeding grounds. And they journey to survive.’ **Sea of Many Returns - Arnold Zable**

‘It’s a terrifying thing to give your heart to that small band of people around you, knowing that relationships are messy and that someday your heart may be broken and you will come undone. That’s the riskiest part of the human journey.’ **Donna VanLiere**

20

‘If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.’ Luke 11:13 (ESV)

‘Do not despise prophecies, but test everything.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (ESV)

‘In the past year, I think I have finally learned that there are some things God doesn’t want us to forget so He allows us to go back to those memories - not daily, but on occasion - and remember. It’s in those moments we discover the somehow, some way, God entwines both remembering and forgetting and shapes them into beauty, something that actually makes sense of the mess in our lives.’ **Donna VanLiere**

‘Find what breaks your heart and get busy.
Maybe that is what the truth does, it beats us down until we do something about it.’
Donna VanLiere

21 **‘Pain is a great motivator.’ Donna VanLiere**

‘The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:1 (ESV)

‘If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.’ Luke 11:20 (ESV)

‘When the whole world is running towards a cliff, he who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Shame is like a bully; it likes to hang around, tapping us on the shoulder from time to time; then it pounds us in the face.’ **Donna VanLiere**

‘There is always enough mercy to manage.’ **Donna VanLiere**

‘Signposts are for people who are afraid of getting lost; people who are really lost don’t look for signposts.’ **Shooting Balibo - Tony Maniaty**

22

‘When they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir.’ 2 Chronicles 20:22 (ESV)

‘Everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God.’ Luke 12:8 (ESV)

‘It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.’

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

‘Hope makes you see God’s guiding hand not only in the gentle and pleasant moments but also in the shadows of disappointment and darkness.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘In the valley of suffering, despair and bitterness are brewed. But there also is character made. The valley of suffering is the vale of soul-making.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

23

‘The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)

‘I will praise the Lord as long as I live.’ Psalm 146:2 (ESV)

‘The compliments that mean the most to you reveal what your values are.’

Katherine Morgan Schafler

‘There is nothing as deafening as grief,’ Loretta said. ‘No matter what you do it just rings loud in your ears.’ ***The Angels of Morgan Hill - Donna VanLiere***

‘Sometimes it is just nice to be with somebody and not fill up every quiet space with a whole lot of talk.’ **Donna VanLiere**

24

‘One’s life does not consist in the abundance of one’s possessions.’ Luke 12:15 (ESV)

‘The Lord lifts up the humble.’ Psalm 147:6 (ESV)

‘Always be dissatisfied with what you are, if you are to arrive at what you are not.’
St Augustine

‘Invention in literature is sometimes superior to truth. Literary characters may say things they would never have said in real life, and this can be a greater revelation than the naked truth.’ ***Apricot Jam & Other Stories - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn***

‘The acquisition of any form of knowledge is a long and far from straight forward process.’ **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

‘It happens imperceptibly and not by any intention: We learn our own worth only with the passing of years and by the way that others regard us.’ **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

25

‘The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.’ Psalm 147:11 (ESV)

‘For God has power to help or to cast down.’ 2 Chronicles 25:8 (ESV)

‘A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.’
Theodore Roosevelt

‘Guilt and remorse caused me to become someone other than myself for a very long time, and I could do nothing to slow the destructive process.’

The Circle of Silence - Shirley Shackleton

‘Grief takes on a persona whose needs are paramount. Grief requires quiet and solitude. Grief demands rest, lots of rest. Grief requires a cup of tea given without talk, without advice, without weeping.’ **Shirley Shackleton**

Reconciliation never works without justice, and justice is not about vengeance, it’s about accountability.’ **Shirley Shackleton**

26

‘And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? Luke 12:25 (ESV)

‘As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.’ 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV)

‘Prayer and love are really learned in the hour when prayer becomes impossible, and your heart turns to stone.’ **Thomas Merton**

‘Writing is like the life of a glacier; one eternal grind.’ **John Muir**

‘You can kiss your family and friends goodbye and put miles between you, but at the same time you carry them with you in your heart, your mind, your stomach, because you do not just live in a world, but a world lives in you.’

Telling the Truth - Frederick Buechner

27

‘Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’ Luke 12:32 (ESV)

‘God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart.’ 2 Chronicles 32:31 (ESV)

‘It is in darkness that one finds the light, so when we are in sorrow, then this light is nearest of all to us.’ **Meister Eckhart**

‘We can’t really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture.’ **Elisabeth Elliot**

‘If it is God’s Spirit blowing, someone ends up having feathers ruffled in an unforeseen way.’ **When The Heart Waits - Sue Monk Kidd**

‘A night prayer is one said against a backdrop of darkness or beneath the shadow of pain.’ **Sue Monk Kidd**

28

‘For the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’ Luke 12:40 (ESV)

‘Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.’ Psalm 150:6 (ESV)

‘The act of writing is to me to listen.’ **John Fosse**

‘There was a man who dwelt in the east centuries ago, and now I cannot look at a sheep or a sparrow, a sunset or a mountain, without thinking of him.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘Brokenness and wounding do not occur in order to break human dignity but to open the heart so God can act.’ **Martin Marty**

The word ‘crisis’ derives from the Greek words *krisis* and *krino* which means ‘a separating.’

29

‘I came to cast fire on the earth and would that it were already kindled.’ Luke 12:49 (ESV)

‘While he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father.’ 2 Chronicles 34:3 (ESV)

‘Wilderness is a necessity and... mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.’ **John Muir**

‘We strain to hear. But instead of hearing an answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn. Through our tears we see the tears of God.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘There was joy, a moment of sweet festivity, even for those of us who mourned. In this fallen world, such is our condition. Every happiness is a bright ray between shadows, every gaiety bracketed by grief. There is no birth that does not recall a death, no victory but brings to mind a defeat.’ **Caleb’s Crossing - Geraldine Brooks**

30

‘Josiah did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God.’ 2 Chronicles 35:22 (ESV)

‘Books are still, in my mind, one of the great technologies... Books become the fulcrum of conversation. The books by themselves could get you there as an individual but, for most of us, the dialogue back and forth increases the possibility of joy. I think that is the point of being a bookseller and the point of reading - and, really, the point of life.’

Paul Yamazaki

‘Each death is as unique as each life.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘You should respect the past. You should never forget the past. But you can’t live there.’

David Baldacci

31

‘Love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.’

1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

‘Let the wise hear and increase in learning.’ Proverbs 1:5 (ESV)

‘Never doubt God in the darkness what he has given us in the light.’ **Francine Rivers**

‘It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realise just how much you love them.’ **Agatha Christie**

‘The earth is more important to the soldier than to anybody else. When he presses himself to the earth, long and violently, when he urges himself deep into it with his face and with his limbs, under fire and with the fear of death upon him, then the earth is his only friend, his brother, his mother, he groans out his terror and screams into its silence and safety, the earth absorbs it all and gives him another ten seconds of life, ten seconds to run, then takes hold of him again - sometime forever.’

***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

August

1

‘Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain: it takes away the life of its possessors.’ Proverbs 1:19 (ESV)

‘I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief.’ 1 Timothy 1:13 (ESV)

‘When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.’

Alexander Graham Bell

‘With the first rumble of shellfire, one part of our being hurls itself back a thousand years. An animal instinct awakens in us, and it directs and protects us. It is not conscious, it is far quicker, far more accurate and far more reliable than conscious thought.’ ***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

2

‘Zedekiah did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke from the mouth of the Lord.’ 2 Chronicles 36:12 (ESV)

‘Whoever listens to me will dwell secure.’ Proverbs 1:33 (ESV)

‘Life is more about consistency than intensity: intensity steals the limelight.’

Dr. Angela Duckworth

‘I believe that defeat is life’s way of nudging you and letting you know you’re off course. There is always some sort of hidden opportunity or lesson in each episode - a chance to build your character.’ **Sara Blakely**

‘We set out as soldiers, and we might be grumbling or we might be cheerful - we reach the zone where the front line begins, and we have turned into human animals.’

***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

3

‘Strive to enter through the narrow door.’ Luke 13:24 (ESV)

‘For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.’ Luke 2:5 (ESV)

‘Most people are on the world, not in it - having no conscious sympathy or relationship to anything about them - undiffused, separate, and rigidly alone like marbles of polished stone, touching but separate.’ **John Muir**

‘We have turned into dangerous animals. We are not fighting; we are defending ourselves from annihilation. We are not hurling our grenades against human beings - what do we know about that in the heat of the moment? The hands and the helmets that are after us belong to Death himself.’

***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

4

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ Luke 13:35 (ESV)

‘Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.’ 1 Timothy 3:9 (ESV)

‘Silence guards the fire within.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Memories always full of quietness. They are soundless apparitions that speak to me by looks and gestures, wordless and silent - and their silence is precisely what disturbs me... The quietness is the reason why all these images awaken in us not so much desire as sadness - a vast and inexplicable melancholy... They are gone, they are another world, a world that is in the past for us.’

***All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque**

5

‘A man’s ways are before the eyes of the Lord.’ Proverbs 5:21 (ESV)

‘Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’ Luke 14:33 (ESV)

‘How fine the weather is! Nothing more celestial can I conceive. How gently the wind blows. They seem the very breath of Nature, whispering peace to every living thing.’

John Muir

‘Withholding (an expression of love) distorts reality.’

***Tiny Beautiful Things* - Cheryl Strayed**

‘See a therapist. A therapist will help you air and examine the complex grief you are holding so tightly inside you.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

6

‘For everything created by God is good.’ 1 Timothy 4:4 (ESV)

‘The reproofs of discipline are the way of life.’ Proverbs 6:24 (ESV)

‘The healing power of the most microscopic exchange with someone who knows in a flash precisely what you are talking about because she experienced that thing too (e.g. miscarriage) cannot be overestimated.’ ***Tiny Beautiful Things* - Cheryl Strayed**

‘You will never stop loving your daughter. You will never forget her. You will always know her name. But she will always be dead. Nobody can intervene and make that right and nobody will. Nobody will protect you from your suffering.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

7

‘Do not neglect the gift you have which was given you by prophecy.’ 1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV)

‘There is joy before the angels over one sinner who repents.’ Luke 15:10 (ESV)

‘It is devastating for a child to hear one parent speak ill of the other. My mother never spoke an ill word about my father to my siblings and me. She had every right to hate him, to turn us against him, to demonise him, but she did not. She cast him as human: complicated, flawed, and capable of redemption. Which means, in spite of everything, she made it possible for me to love my father, this absent man who was half of me.’

Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed

‘Personal grief and sorrow in God’s hands can result in powerful ministry! We must so surrender to obedience that whatever happens to us, those who are watching us will hear the voice of God speaking to them through us.’ **Jill Briscoe**

8 **‘Whoever walks in integrity walks securely.’ Proverbs 10:9**

‘She who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.’ 1 Timothy 5:6 (ESV)

‘The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy.’ Ezra 8:31 (ESV)

‘Trusting yourself means living out what you already know to be true.’

Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed

‘The first product of self-knowledge is humility.’ **Flannery O’Connor**

Compassion is not about solutions. It is about giving all the love that you have got.’
Cheryl Strayed

‘Acceptance asks that you embrace what is true.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

9

‘Those who seek me diligently find me.’ Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)

‘But now for a brief moment favour has been shown by the Lord our God.’ Ezra 9:8 (ESV)

‘Jump high and hard with intention and heart.’ ***Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed***

‘Suffering is a part of life. I do not know why we forget it when something truly awful happens to us, but we do. Awful things happen to all sorts of people every second of every day.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

‘Telling has a way of dispersing things.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

‘Addiction is a tunnel that wakes you up in the middle of the night. Everything else happens out here in the light.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

10

‘Ezra spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles.’ Ezra 10:6 (ESV)

‘For the love of money is the root of all evils.’ 1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

‘Real change happens on the level of the gesture. It is one person doing one thing differently than he or she did before... Doing it will give us strength and clarity. It will bring us closer to who we hope to be.’ ***Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed***

‘Courage is a vital piece of any well-lived life.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

‘You have to stop feeling sorry for yourself. Self-pity is a dead-end road.’
Cheryl Strayed

11

‘For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.’ Luke 16:15 (ESV)

‘Fight the good fight of faith.’ 1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)

‘Emotionally healthy people sometimes behave badly. They are imperfect but capable of discerning which of their behaviours are destructive and unreasonable, and they attempt to change them, even if they don’t wholly succeed. This is called being human.’

Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed

‘It is a truism of transformation that if we want things to be different, we have to change ourselves.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

‘Your memories are your life and life is so precious. The friendships, the good times, the happiness, the sorrow - your memories are your most treasured possession. Safeguard them; protect them so you can pass them on.’

The Laughing Clowns - William McInnes

12

‘You are not lacking in any gift.’ 1 Corinthians 1:7 (ESV)

‘For God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.’ 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

‘I leave home every time I lose faith in the voice that calls me the beloved.’

Henri Nouwen

‘We are all going to die, but only some of us are going to die tomorrow or next year or in the next half century. And... we don’t know which of us it will be, when and of what. That mystery is not the curse of our existence; it is the wonder.’

Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed

‘If you are a writer, it is the writing that matters.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

13

‘Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.’ 1 Corinthians 1:24 (ESV)

‘The hope of the righteous brings joy.’ Proverbs 10:28 (ESV)

‘The narratives we create to justify our actions and choices become, in so many ways, who we are. They are the things we say back to ourselves to explain our complicated lives. Perhaps the reason you have not been able to forgive yourself is that that you are still invested in your self-loathing.’ ***Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed***

‘All I remember is that Stephen is golden and beautiful, and that our losing him drove a stake into the heart of my family. Somehow, we managed to survive that day, but none of us ever experienced the deliverance of recovery. I realise you can walk away from anything but a wounded soul.’ ***South of Broad - Pat Conroy***

14

‘A secret and hidden wisdom of God which God decreed before the ages for our glory.’ 1 Corinthians 2:7 (ESV)

‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed.’ Luke 17:6 (ESV)

‘Sometimes the greatest truth is not in the confession but rather in the lesson learned.’ ***Tiny Beautiful Things - Cheryl Strayed***

‘Grief taught me things. It showed me shades and hues I could not otherwise have seen. It required me to suffer. It compelled me to reach.’ ***Cheryl Strayed***

‘Put your past experiences in a box so that when the ordinary miraculous is revealed, you will be there.’ ***Cheryl Strayed***

15

‘By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.’ 2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV)

‘Your faith has made you well.’ Luke 17:19 (ESV)

‘Stories are light. Light is precious in a world so dark.’ **Kate DeCamillo**

‘I never believed the boys (in the anger management program) were angry. I believed they were hurt, and anger was the safest manifestation of their sorrow.’

***Tiny Beautiful Things* - Cheryl Strayed**

‘You cannot convince people to love you. This is an absolute rule. Real love moves freely in both directions.’ **Cheryl Strayed**

16

‘An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.’ 2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)

‘On gives freely yet grows all the richer.’ Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)

‘The fire will test what sort of work each one has done.’ 1 Corinthians 3:13 (ESV)

‘Backsliding begins with dusty bibles.’ **Charles Spurgeon**

‘Christianity is always out of fashion because it is always sane; and all fashions are mild insanities. The Church always seems to be behind the times, when it is really beyond the times.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘My nerves often get the better of me, especially on Sundays; that is when I really feel miserable. The atmosphere is stifling, sluggish, leaden. Outside, you don’t hear a single bird, and a deathly, oppressive silence hangs over the house and clings to me as if it were going to drag me into the deepest regions of the underworld.’

***The Diary of a Young Girl* - Anne Frank**

17

‘The word of God is not bound.’ 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV)

‘Whoever captures souls is wise.’ Proverbs 11:30 (ESV)

‘The voice of God indeed daily calls to us; calls to the world to abandon sins and seek the Kingdom of God wholeheartedly.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘The best remedy for those who are frightened, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere they can be alone, alone with the sky, nature, and God. For then and only then can you feel that everything is as it should be and that God wants people to be happy amid nature’s beauty and simplicity.’ ***The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank***

18

‘Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it.’ Luke 17:33 (ESV)

‘The Lord knows those who are his.’ 2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)

‘The only way to understand the world as something other than a tale of loss is to see it as a tale of change.’ **Daniel Mason**

‘I want to go on living even after my death! And therefore, I am grateful to God for giving me this gift, this possibility of developing myself and of writing; of expressing all that is me. I can shake off everything if I write: my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.’ ***The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank***

‘Suffering was like fire. A little of it, in measured proportions, can bring strength to a life, pull a family together, draw a soul to Christ, accomplish good things. But let that fire break out of its bounds, and it can quickly become a destroyer.’ **Joni Eareckson Tada**

19

‘When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? Luke 18:8 (ESV)

‘Having the appearance of godliness but denying its power.’ 2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

‘Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent.’ **Leonard Ravenhill**

‘A new awakening is coming to the church. It will be birthed by prayer and sheltered by humility, but its power will emerge through compassion.’ **Francis Frangipane**

‘In our world, new is old, and next is new.’ **Sam Luce**

‘You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.’ **C. S. Lewis**

20

‘You gave your good Spirit to instruct them.’ Nehemiah 9:20 (ESV)

‘Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.’ Luke 18:14 (ESV)

‘Keep a little fire burning; however small, however hidden.’

***The Road* - Cormac McCarthy**

‘When death first wallops us into our new citizenship amongst the grieving, it is impossible to remember without pain. Memory is devastating.’ **Sarah Bessey**

‘Grief isn’t as luxury; it is an appropriate response to loss. You just don’t will it away. If you allow it to run its course, it will fade with time, but if you ignore it or pretend it doesn’t exist, it only gets worse.’ ***A Step of Faith* - Richard Paul Evans**

21

‘Equipped for every good work.’ 2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV)

‘The desire of the treacherous is for violence.’ Proverbs 13:2 (ESV)

‘Feelings are always true, but they aren’t always right.’ **Anjuli Paschall**

‘Our love for the new. Our desire for the city. Our unsettled movement from place to place comes at a cost.’ **Sam Luce**

‘Every being craves recognition, someone to bear witness. Only then can a soul be finally put to rest.’ ***Jewels and Ashes - Arnold Zable***

22

‘Hope deferred makes the heart sick.’ Proverbs 13:12 (ESV)

‘We will not neglect the house of our God.’ Nehemiah 10:33 (ESV)

‘Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down.’ Proverbs 12:25 (ESV)

‘As our faith grows, we are more likely to hear God’s plan for us, see the needs of others, and find opportunities to be a better person and have a life more triumphant and victorious - a life that is happy and content, at peace with a real effectual purpose.’

Dr. Richard J. Krejcir

‘The whole of our existence is contained in words, father claims. Words are the source. They are more durable than the grass we are sitting on, he stresses, while poking his finger at the ground. This grass must eventually fade, whereas words externalize our experiences and express the sum total of what we have been in our lives. Words will never die, so long as there are human beings to receive them.’

Jewels and Ashes - Arnold Zable

23

‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’ Luke 18:27 (ESV)

‘I have kept the faith.’ 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

‘Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonise earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.’ **N. T. Wright**

‘The Amish don’t automatically embrace what’s new, they elevate it and decide if it is a good fit for the lives they want to lead.’ **Donald B. Kraybill**

‘Sometimes when tragedy strikes, people give up hope that they can expect anything more from life, when the real quest is finding out what life expects of them.’

Miles to Go - Richard Paul Evans

24 ‘Righteousness exalts a nation.’ Proverbs 14:34

‘A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.’ Proverbs 13:22 (ESV)

‘Today salvation has come to this house.’ Luke 19:9 (ESV)

‘It all means more than I can tell you. So you must not judge what I know by what I find words for.’ **Marilynne Robinson**

‘We are all in motion. Always. Those who are not climbing toward something are descending toward nothing.’ **Miles to Go - Richard Paul Evans**

‘Without great mountains we cannot reach great heights. And we were born to reach great heights.’ **Richard Paul Evans**

‘Everyone one of us is faced with a task equal to Korczak’s (sculptor), one as gorgeously absurd - to chip away at the stone of our own spirits, creating a monument to light the universe.’ **Richard Paul Evans**

25

‘They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.’ Titus 1:10 (ESV)

‘Blessed is he who is generous to the poor.’ Proverbs 14:21 (ESV)

‘The divine path is less about healing pain completely and more about holding it compassionately.’ **Kelly Flanagan**

‘A good writer doesn’t just think and then write down what he thought as a sort of transcript. A good writer will almost always discover new things in the process of writing.’ **Paul Graham**

‘It wasn’t that he was particularly hard on me; it was more that he deprived me of confidence in myself. I passionately believe now that the best thing you can do for your children is make them feel loved and make them feel special.’

***Under the Mackerel Sky* - Rick Stein**

26

‘A people who are zealous for good works.’ Titus 2:14 (ESV)

‘Humility comes before honour.’ Proverbs 15:33 (ESV)

‘I have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is paying attention. I carry on a habitual silence, a secret conversation with God that fills me with overwhelming joy.’ **Brother Lawrence**

‘To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘We need to remember that we are saved by grace when we fail. But we need to remember it much more when we succeed.’ **Tim Keller**

27 **‘What you respect, you will protect.’**

‘And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.’ Luke 19:41 (ESV)

‘The Lord tests hearts.’ Proverbs 17:3 (ESV)

‘My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary.’ **Martin Luther**

‘Everyone has something to be insecure or sensitive about. That doesn’t make us weak. It makes us human, but also a little vulnerable, which again isn’t unusual at all. Being vulnerable can make us more sympathetic and thoughtful in our dealings with others. You can be vulnerable and still be strong.’ **Stand Strong - Nick Vujicic**

28

‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.’ Luke 20:17 (ESV)

‘The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honour.’ Esther 8:16 (ESV)

‘Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; you are not strong enough to fall away while God is resolved to hold you.’ **J. I. Packer**

‘Everyone experiences grief at some point - in the worst case, the terrible grief of losing a child. I see its impact in my role as first responder, especially after suicides. You live with grief as if in a bubble, and only gradually re-enter the world.’ (First responder)

The Question That Never Goes Away - Philip Yancey

29

‘A joyful heart is good medicine.’ Proverbs 17:22 (ESV)

‘I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.’ 1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)

‘As we strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, we see beyond our struggles to the blessings and promises of eternity. Like a light whose brilliance grows, hope brightens the darkened world, and we see our glorious future.’ **Neil L. Andersen**

‘There is no pain, no suffering, no frustration, no disappointment that cannot be cured or taken up and used for higher ends. We discover the hidden value of suffering only by suffering - not as part of God’s original or ultimate plan for us, but as a redemptive transformation that takes place in the midst of trial.’ **E. Stanley Jones**

30

‘The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.’ Proverbs 18:4 (ESV)

‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.’ Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

‘I have chosen you! Keep that note of greatness in your creed. It is not that you have got God but that He has got you.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘We live, in fact, in a world starved for solitude, silence, and private: and therefore starved for meditation and true friendship.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Grief often goes hand-in-hand with growth and renewal. As the immediacy of loss begins to peel away, you will find layers of transformation underneath.’
(Forever Missed Memorials)

31

‘The name of the Lord is a strong tower.’ Proverbs 18:10 (ESV)

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.’ Isaiah 2:3 (ESV)

‘A river is victoriously persistent, overcoming all barriers.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘To discern means first of all to listen to God, to pay attention to God’s active presence, and to obey God’s prompting, direction, leadings, and guidance.’

***Discernment* - Henri Nouwen**

‘Discernment allows us to ‘see through’ the appearance of things to their deeper meaning and come to know the interworkings of God’s love and our unique place in the world.’ **Henri Nouwen**

September

1

‘Death and life are in the power of the tongue.’ Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

‘The lofty pride of men shall be brought low.’ Isaiah 2:17 (ESV)

‘To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover the prisoner was you.’

Corrie Ten Boom

‘But the pain of the no more outweighs the gratitude of the once was. Will it always be so? I didn’t know how much I loved him until he was gone. Is love like that?’

Nicholas Wolterstorff

‘The purpose of discernment is to know God’s will, that is, to find, accept, and affirm the unique way in which God’s love is manifest in our life.’

Discernment - Henri Nouwen

2

‘Desire without knowledge is not good.’ Proverbs 19:2 (ESV)

‘In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious.’ Isaiah 4:2 (ESV)

‘Christians think He is going to land in force; we do not know when. But we can guess why He is delaying. He wants to give us the chance of joining His side freely.’

C. S. Lewis

‘Watermen didn’t stop for weather. As Bob Dan Gibbons, the official Frick Island ferry boat captain, often explained to boat loads of tourists visiting from the mainland: *The crabs don’t know it’s raining.*’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley***

3

‘Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge.’ Isaiah 5:13 (ESV)

‘I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.’ Luke 21:15 (ESV)

‘If a man wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is his guide; but if he wants insight into what Jesus Christ teaches, he can only get by obedience.’

Oswald Chambers

‘The first time Piper read ‘Their Eyes Were Watching God’ it drew her in from the very first paragraph: the idea that for some men, their dreams sail forever on the horizon,

resigned that they will never reach them.'

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

4

'Gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.' Hebrews 2:4 (ESV)

'There will be signs in sun and moon and stars.' Luke 21:25 (ESV)

'Your future depends on how you remember your past.' **Henri Nouwen**

'Truth carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation, loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless.' **Francis Schaeffer**

'The day after moving in, Anders spotted three cockroaches scampering along his laminate countertops, and he had been at war ever since. If there was one thing he hated more than being the centre of attention, it was bugs.'

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

5

'Jesus, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death.' Hebrews 10:9 (ESV)

'And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me!' Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

'Humility has nothing to do with self-rejection. You can only be humble if you have a deep self-respect. Self-rejection cannot form the basis of a humble life. It leads only to complaints, jealousy, anger, and even violence.' **Discernment - Henri Nouwen**

'While the rest of the town knew the worst had happened, Piper held out hope. Maybe Tom got disorientated and swam in the wrong direction, washed up on a deserted island, and was currently eating coconuts and writing messages in palm fronds for passing airplanes.' ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley***

6

‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.’ Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)

‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’ Luke 21:33 (ESV)

‘The less I pray the harder it gets.’ **Martin Luther**

‘The same sun that melts the butter also hardens the clay.’

***The Days of His Presence* - Francis Frangipane**

‘Once, in a fit of paternal (and scotch induced) bonding at his high school graduation party, Anders’s father gave him three pieces of advice. Anders could not remember the first two, but the third made so much sense, it stuck with him like a piece of gum to a shoe. Dress for the job you want, not the job you have.’

***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

7

‘The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.’ Isaiah 11:9 (ESV)

‘Let us strive to enter that rest.’ Hebrews 4:11 (ESV)

‘Love - and basic human connection - are all based on a shared history, shared truths. Not the best case, or the preferred past - the real one, the things we really lived while we lived them together. And the truth is, all things have endings; but nothing is ever really lost, if we can remember it.’ **Bryan VanDyke**

‘Piper could still appreciate the simple things like a glorious sunrise in the midst of her pain.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

‘I know that I give hope to others only when I have found that hope in the midst of my own despair.’ ***Discernment* - Henri Nouwen**

8

‘Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid.’ Isaiah 12:2 (ESV)

‘The Lord weighs the heart.’ Proverbs 21:2 (ESV)

‘Fear arises when we imagine that everything depends on us.’ **Elizabeth Elliot**

‘Frick Island was not widely known by anyone who didn’t live in the state of Maryland. It wasn’t even widely known by those who did. But the people who did know about the tiny island likely had heard of it by way of a dessert. More specifically, a cake: the Frick Island cake, eight to ten thin layers tall, each one carefully spread with frosting, traditionally chocolate.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

‘When we abandon ourselves to God in prayer, then each moment becomes a sacrament of joy, gratitude, and loving acceptance of the will of God manifest in that moment.’ **Jean-Pierre de Caussade**

9

‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’ Luke 22:20 (ESV)

‘In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth.’ Isaiah 19:24 (ESV)

‘Life is better than death.’ **John Brogdan**

‘Your individual genesis from darkness to light shall not be too difficult for God.’
Francis Frangipane

‘A disciple is one in whom the Holy Spirit has forged this realization: ‘I am not my own.’
Oswald Chambers

‘Yes, death will cure a number of maladies, won’t it? Mrs. Olecki thought.’
***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

10

‘Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. Luke 22:26 (ESV)

‘Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.’ Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

‘Language is what makes us human.’ **Ruth Gaskovski**

‘Anders let his eyes graze over the people seated at the tables. A few he recognized from the Cake Walk, and he found, as he had earlier in the day, he could easily spot the locals from the tourists. Not because of their belongings this time, but by a difference in the way they carried themselves. The locals’ posture belied a certain sense of belonging, a comfortable relaxation, as if they had been sitting on these same chairs for years, the wood worn in just the right grooves to fit their bodies perfectly.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

11

‘The Lord of hosts has revealed himself in my ears.’ Isaiah 22:14 (ESV)

‘I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.’ Luke 22:32 (ESV)

‘Walls keep things in - and walls keep things out. And in the modern world, lots of things need to be purposefully kept out for the sake of our spiritual health and formation.’

Jen Pollock Michel

‘Anders realised that the road - cracked, potholes, and sun-bleached - was not the only thing in need of repair. The houses all were in their own state of disrepair - slanting staircases, grimy windows, splintered wood, missing shingles. They were not abandoned looking - no broken glass or boarded-up doors - just worn, lived in, loved.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

12

‘And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.’ Isaiah 22:22 (ESV)

‘To have the full assurance of hope until the end.’ Hebrews 6:11 (ESV)

‘Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.’ **Pablo Picasso**

‘Anders was frustrated with his assignments. Demoralised, really. He should be patient, he knew. That was another thing his dad always said: Patience, persistence, and perspiration are the three keys to success.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

13

‘Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.’ Isaiah 26:4 (ESV)

‘He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him.’ Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)

‘Free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘The waiter nodded, wiping his hands on the dish towel tucked into his back pocket. ‘It’s cause you’re a Come Here.’

Anders wasn’t sure he had heard right. ‘A what?’

‘A Come Here,’ he replied. ‘On Frick Island, you are either a Come Here or a From Here. And you are definitely not a From Here.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

14

‘Little is much with Jesus.’ Francis Frangipane

‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Luke 23:42 (ESV)

‘Behold, I am the one who has laid a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation.’ Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)

‘This as part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you are not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.’

F. Scott Fitzgerald

‘If Piper and Tom were married and they never found Tom’s body, then it wasn’t all that unusual for a wife to hold out hope that her husband was still alive - to want to believe that he was still out there somewhere, and not at the bottom of the ocean, or eaten by sharks.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

15

‘In quietness and trust shall be your strength.’ Isaiah 30:15 (ESV)

‘Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for.’ Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

‘If you look at the world, you will be distressed. If you look within you will be depressed. If you look to God, you will be at rest.’ **Corrie Ten Boom**

‘Every path has its puddle.’ That was what Mrs. Olecki always said. ‘No sense dwelling on them - you just gotta walk around them.’

***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

‘If Anders had a life mantra, it would probably be the one his dad oft repeated, also known as the five P’s - Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance.’ **Colleen Oakley**

16

‘My people will abide in a peaceful habitation.’ Isaiah 32:18 (ESV)

‘A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber.’ Proverbs 24:33-34 (ESV)

‘Desperation is God’s hammer. It demolishes the stronghold of fear and shatters the chains of our excuses. When desperation exceeds our fears, progress begins.’

Francis Frangipane

‘I shall look at the world through tears. Perhaps I shall see things that, dry-eyed, I could not see.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

17

‘The curtain in the temple was torn in two.’ Luke 23:44 (ESV)

‘For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.’ Isaiah 35:6 (ESV)

‘Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.’

Corrie Ten Boom

‘Anders had paused in his notetaking, reflecting on how to properly react to someone experiencing a delusion and reread what he had typed on the screen. ‘Do not disagree with the delusion but also do not go along with it.’ Wait - so what should you do? ‘Safest bet is to change the subject. Gently. Do not acknowledge the delusion or allow them to dwell on it.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

18

‘The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.’ Isaiah 40:5 (ESV)

‘By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark.’ Hebrews 11:7 (ESV)

‘We pray when there is nothing else we can do. Jesus wants us to pray before we do anything at all.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘When Anders righted his head and looked out at the water, he felt something - a loosening - as if all his muscles had been tightly holding on to a tug-of-war and then just... let go. The sand was still gritty and slimy. The rock beneath his butt, hard and uncomfortable. But the sun warming his skin, the repetitive lapping of the waves, the tang of the salt air filling his nostrils... Anders had to admit, there was something soothing about it all.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

19

‘The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever.’ Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

‘By faith Abraham went to live in the land of promise.’ Hebrews 11:9 (ESV)

‘Aside from his debilitating neuroses - Who didn’t like the beach? Or seafood? Or butterflies, for Pete’s sake? - Piper liked how plainspoken Anders was. Or maybe she just liked how interested he appeared to be in what she had to say. Of course, it was his job to ask all those questions, but having a man truly listen when you spoke - well, she had lived long enough to know what a rare thing indeed.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

20

‘I will open fountains in the midst of valleys.’ Isaiah 41:18 (ESV)

‘Whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.’ Proverbs 28:14 (ESV)

‘We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won’t need to tell anyone it does. Lighthouses do not fire canons to call attention to their shining - they just shine.’

Dwight L. Moody

‘When he started, Piper had been a subject, an interesting character in an improbable story. But something changed on the beach, and instead of a character, a subject, he started seeing her for what she was - a person.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

21

‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)

‘Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.’ Isaiah 55:6 (ESV)

‘This hard place in which you, perhaps, find yourself, is the very place in which God is giving you opportunity to look only to Him.’ **Elizabeth Elliot**

‘If he thought Frick Island was desolate during the day, it was nothing compared to the dead of night. It was a strange feeling, to be so fully alone, every storefront, every house he passed dark and locked up tight.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

22

‘I make well-being and create calamity.’ Isaiah 45:7 (ESV)

‘He disciplines us for good that we may share his holiness.’ Hebrews 12:10 (ESV)

‘I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because twelve men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaim that truth for forty years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it were not true. Watergate embroiled twelve of the most powerful men in the world - and they could not keep a lie for three weeks. You are telling me twelve apostles could keep a lie for forty years? Absolutely impossible.’ **Charles Colson**

23

‘I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass.’ Isaiah 46:11 (ESV)

‘He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.’ Luke 24:35 (ESV)

‘The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, that is the friend who cares.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Piper realised that was the thing about loneliness. It made you susceptible to doing a whole manner of things you might not otherwise do.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

‘The cat took to sleeping on Tom’s pillow, and it comforted Piper to have another living creature in her space that she could talk to when the loneliness and silence in her house became overwhelming.’ **Colleen Oakley**

24

‘My glory I will not give to another.’ Isaiah 48:11 (ESV)

‘Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.’ Hebrews 12:28 (ESV)

‘Wherever people love each other and are true to each other and take risks for each other, God is with them and for them and they are doing God’s will.’

Frederick Buechner

‘What was it about being surrounded by darkness that made it easier to lay your soul bare?’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley***

‘Her mom stayed through the holidays, which were sad and awful, but a little less sad and awful than they might have otherwise been because at least Piper was no longer alone.’ **Colleen Oakley**

25

‘I have engraved you on the palm of my hands.’ Isaiah 49:16 (ESV)

‘Where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint.’ Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)

‘Tears are the meaning of history.’ **Nicholas Walterstorff**

‘She wouldn’t be the first or the last distraught widow to imagine such a thing - a bird that comes daily to your windowsill, a butterfly, an owl staring into your soul. It would have crossed most people’s minds, because the truth was, no matter what you believed, everyone wanted a sign, didn’t they? That your loved one was still there in some way. Still with you.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley***

26

‘He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.’
Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)

‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.’ Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

‘Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each.’ **Henry David Thoreau**

‘People want to help. Sometimes you just have to let them in.’
***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* - Colleen Oakley**

‘She stood, staring at the empty chair, allowing herself to slip into her grief for a minute like a familiar winter coat.’ **Colleen Oakley**

27

‘With his wounds we are healed.’ Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

‘For it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace.’ Hebrews 13:9 (ESV)

‘In the poor man who knocks at my door, in my ailing mother, in the young man who seeks my advice, the Lord Himself is present; therefore, let us wash His feet.’
C. S. Lewis

‘There are thoughts which are prayers. There are moments when, whatever the posture of the body, the soul is on its knees.’ **Victor Hugo**

‘The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

28

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.’ Isaiah 56:7 (ESV)

‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.’ Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)

‘Christ is not valued at all, unless he is valued above all. **St. Augustine**

‘Piper no longer had control over anything, including her own emotions. Alarmed, the cat slipped out the window Piper still left cracked over the kitchen sink, and then Piper was really, truly alone. She thought she had grieved Tom, in the months she was pretending he was alive, alone and silently in their bed at night. But apparently, she hadn’t even scratched the surface.’

The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley

29

‘Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness? Isaiah 58:5 (ESV)

‘Whatever I command you, you shall speak.’ Jeremiah 1:7 (ESV)

‘It is the broken heart, the heart that knows sorrow that is also capable of genuine love.’

Francis Waller

‘When Tom’s dad died, it rocked him. It would rock anybody, but Tom, I think he got one of those predispositions or whatever you call it, for sadness. It was deep. And dark. Even a blind man could see he needed help, but he wouldn’t listen to me (Jeffrey - friend) I tried to talk to Piper, but she would just brush it off. It’ll pass, it’ll pass, she would say. It did, of course, but then it would sneak up on him again. It never left him for good. Or for long.’ ***The Invisible Husband of Frick Island - Colleen Oakley***

30

‘I Speak Jesus’

‘Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save.’ Isaiah 59:1 (ESV)

‘Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.’ Jeremiah 1:9 (ESV)

While you have breath you have purpose.

‘Come out of hiding, you’re safe here with me.
There’s no need to cover what I already see.’ **Steffany Gretzinger**

‘The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Regret for a sinful past will remain until we truly believe that for us in Christ that sinful past no longer exists.’ **A. W. Tozer**

October

1

‘The Lord will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.’ Isaiah 61:11 (ESV)

‘In the beginning was the Word.’ John 1:1 (ESV)

The Christian’s motto should not be ‘Let go and let God’ but ‘Trust God and get going.’
J. I. Packer

“Don’t say it’s not really so bad. Because it is. Death is awful, demonic. If you think your task as comforter is to tell me that really, all things considered, it is not so bad, you do not sit with me in my grief but place yourself off in the distance away from me. Over there, you are of no help.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

2

‘On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent.’ Isaiah 62:6 (ESV)

‘Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.’ John 1:17 (ESV)

‘At His Ascension our Lord entered heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a centre of fear.’

Corrie Ten Boom

‘Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world.’ **Henri Nouwen**

3

‘This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.’ Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)

‘If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach.’ James 1:5 (ESV)

‘He who denies the existence of God, has some reason for wishing that God did not exist.’ **St. Augustine**

‘Prayer is more than a wish; it is the voice of faith directed to God.’ **Billy Graham**

‘He also loves. He also has suffered. He also has waited a long time.’ **C. S. Lewis**

4

‘He who increases knowledge increases sorrow.’ Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV)

‘Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial.’ James 1:12 (ESV)

‘The Gospel is sheer good tidings, not demand but promise, not duty but gift.’

Herman Bavinck

‘As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.’

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

5

‘Break up your fallow ground.’ Jeremiah 4:3 (ESV)

‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’ John 1:29 (ESV)

‘Do not be quick to talk about three things: about God until you establish faith in Him, about another’s sin until you remember t tomorrow until you see the dawn.’

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

‘When God ordains anything to come to pass, His purpose in doing so is altogether and absolutely good.’ **R. C. Sproul**

6

‘For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy.’
Ecclesiastes 2:26 (ESV)

‘Behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire.’ Jeremiah 5:14

‘Where there is sorrow, there is holy ground.’ **Oscar Wilde**

‘Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.’

Anne Lamott

‘A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning.’

Leonard Ravenhill

7

‘Everyone is greedy for unjust gain.’ Jeremiah 6:13 (ESV)

‘Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith.’ James 2:5 (ESV)

‘What I ought to do and what I feel like doing are seldom the same thing.’

Elisabeth Elliot

‘Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.’

Corrie Ten Boom

‘Their way of life was fast disappearing, but they wouldn’t give up on it. The tent, how it encouraged them to live, the quietness and the slowness. It was as if they lived in a different time to the rest of the world. They could still touch their history, their ancient relatives. The tracks they had trodden were now theirs. Their stories were shared, kept alive, night after night, around the fire.’

***Before the Swallows Come Back* - Fiona Curnow**

8

‘A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.’ Ecclesiastes 3:7 (ESV)

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened.’ John 1:51 (ESV)

‘Spiritual maturity is not reached by the passing of years, but by obedience to the will of God,’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘Death, I knew, was cold. And death was still. But nobody had mentioned that all the softness went out. His spirit had departed and taken along the warmth and activity and, yes, the softness. He was gone.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.’

C. S. Lewis

9

‘He has put eternity into man’s heart.’ Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV)

‘Faith apart from works is dead.’ James 2:26 (ESV)

‘Do not let your happiness depend on something you may lose. If love is to be a blessing, not a misery, it must be for the only Beloved who will never pass away.’

C. S. Lewis

‘But these days she had learned that sometimes life wouldn’t wait, wouldn’t always be there, wouldn’t be kind. If there was goodness to be shared, a smile to be brought, it had to be done right then. Right at that very moment.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

10 **‘Mercy triumphs over judgement.’ James 2:13**

‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.’ Jeremiah 8:20 (ESV)

‘Many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.’ John 2:23 (ESV)

‘We are secure, not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because he holds tightly to us.’

R. C. Sproul

‘There never was a broken heart brought to Jesus that he did not heal.’

Charles Spurgeon

‘It made him happy to think of the wee things (little baskets) he had made sitting in the old folks’ houses with maybe some flowers or some shells or some stones sitting in them. Pretty things that made the world a lighter place.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

11

‘The Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.’ Jeremiah 10:10 (ESV)

‘Do not let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God.’ Ecclesiastes 5:2 (ESV)

‘May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.’ **Saint Patrick**

‘Why was life so very complicated? But then, it would be boring if it wasn’t; if everything was just as expected, and simple and predictable, and there were no surprises. No delicious dilemmas.’ ***Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow***

‘The damp brought with it a freshness, as the whole world had been cleansed and sprinkled with perfume.’ **Fiona Curnow**

12

‘Give glory to the Lord your God, before he brings darkness.’ Jeremiah 13:16 (ESV)

‘Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.’ James 4:10 (ESV)

‘Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘The people who influence us are those who have stood unconsciously for the right thing. They are like the stars, and the joy of God flows through them all the time.’

Oswald Chambers

‘This illness had taught him many things, but mostly that you had to grab every moment. Every precious moment.’ ***Before the Swallows Come Back* - Fiona Curnow**

‘Here, far from anywhere, anyone, the silence was anything but! The quiet of the countryside had its own special meaning. Perhaps its silence just meant something that was made by nature, something that occurred without the intervention of man.’

Fiona Curnow

13

‘Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.’ Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV)

‘People loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.’ John 3:19 (ESV)

‘If you go to Jesus, he may ask of you far more than you originally planned to give, - he can give infinitely more than you dared ask or think.’ **Timothy Keller**

‘The forest, the river, the little beach, had become close acquaintances, and despite the apparent solitude of it all she was content with just this. Nature was pure and comforting and trustworthy, and here she felt completely safe.’

***Before the Swallows Come Back* - Fiona Curnow**

‘But now his heart ached. The weight of his loss choked at him, and he cried silently, staring out at the place where the water met the sky and bled into one. Where this world slipped into the next.’ **Fiona Curnow**

14

‘I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways.’ Jeremiah 17:10 (ESV)

‘A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.’ John 3:27 (ESV)

‘Let us be silent that we may hear the whisper of God.’ **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

‘If a riverbed remains unchanged, the water will continue to flow along the path it always has, since that is the most natural route for it to take. If the underlying structures of your life remain unchanged, the greatest tendency is for you to follow the same direction your life has always taken.’ **Robert Fritz**

15

‘I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good.’ Jeremiah 21:10 (ESV)

‘The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.’ John 3:35 (ESV)

‘If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into the thing that has them.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘The Christian life is a process of God breaking our idols one by one.’ **Elizabeth Elliot**

‘Others would ask why he was on his own, where his family had gone. He knew that he wouldn’t be able to lie. It wasn’t simply that he had been taught not to, it was also that mentally he found it impossible. If you get asked a question you answer it as best you can.’ **Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow**

16

‘Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ Jeremiah 23:24 (ESV)

‘God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ John 4:24 (ESV)

‘We took him too much for granted. Perhaps we all take each other too much for granted. The routines of life distract us; our own pursuits make us oblivious; our anxieties and sorrows unmindful. The beauties of the familiar go unremarked. We do not treasure each other enough.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘No one really understood him apart from his family, his ma. He felt tears fall unbidden down his cheeks at the thought of her. All of the memories of their quiet times trotting across the land with whispers of shared thoughts.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

17

‘Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord.’ Jeremaih 23:29 (ESV)

‘The prayer of faith will save the one who is sick.’ James 5:15 (ESV)

‘We have come from God and inevitably the myths woven by us, though they contain error, also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light.’ **J. R. R. Tolkien**

‘The world’s greatest works weren’t commissioned; they were created by people who couldn’t bear their absence.’ **Shane Parrish**

‘Now, life for the Tinkers had also changed with the Clearances. The villages where they had sold their wares – their tin pots and baskets and brushes – had gone. The crofts where they had worked building up dry stone walls, doing repairs, they had gone too. Now it was just sheep. And the land was dirty. It was a place of cruelty and sadness, and that sadness had crept into the earth and stayed there. It wasn’t a place for people who could feel such things. Not anymore.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

18

‘But he who is joined with all the living has hope.’ Ecclesiastes 9:4 (ESV)

‘The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness.’ Jeremiah 31:2 (ESV)

‘In life the challenge is not so much to figure out how best to play the game; the challenge is to figure out what game you are playing.’

Kwame Anthony Appiah - Philosopher

‘They were taking her away. No choice. A blanket wrapped around her shoulders. One of those smiles that is only given to the bereaved. A smile that shouldn’t be there at all because the situation could never warrant such a thing.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

‘Martha had offered to look after her, but they had said no. It was too close. Too traumatic. It wouldn’t be good for her. She was placed with foster parents until after the funeral. Still not a word. Still no tears. Not even as the coffin was lowered.’

Fiona Curnow

19

‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.’ Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.’ John 4:34 (ESV)

‘The loneliest moment in someone’s life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart and all they can do is to stare blankly. It is not the shattering itself that breaks you - It’s the silence that follows, the quiet space when you realise there is nothing left to salvage. And in that moment, you know you will never be the same again. You will build something new, perhaps, but it will never be what you lost.’

The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald

‘They finally drove into London. The vast inevitability of the place stood cold and treacherous.

The noise of the place. A thick swell of unfamiliarity. Shouts, screeches of horns, clogged angry traffic that seemed to echo between the mass of buildings; no escape, nowhere for it to go. No air to breathe. Then there was the immensity of the place. Buildings that stretched to the sky. People so busy, so intense. A lump snatched at her throat. A deeper darkness that she couldn’t shift.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

20

‘You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them.’ Jeremiah 32:18 (ESV)

‘The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him.’ John 4:50 (ESV)

‘He died not for men, - but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, he would have done no less.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘It was like being home. Like belonging. Stories were like that. They held you. Wrapped you up in them. Took you with them. Kept you alive.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

‘When he awoke in the morning all was quiet. The storm had passed on by. The forest around sighing. Dappled sunlight playing with the window, flickering against the wall, dancing on the floor. But he was alone. No old man. No candles. Nothing but him and his animals. He felt a peculiar sadness. Emptiness.’ **Fiona Curnow**

21

‘Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.’ Ecclesiastes 11:1 (ESV)

‘The word of the Lord remains for ever.’ 1 Peter 1:25 (ESV)

‘Remember he is the artist, and you are the picture. You can’t see it. So quietly submit to be painted.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘Distractions are the assassins of great work. You don’t need more time; you need more focus.’ **Shane Parrish**

‘Those who lack contentment have no idea what it means to be truly thankful. When you are content, you live a grateful life.’ **Charles Swindoll**

22

‘In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper.’ Ecclesiastes 11:6 (ESV)

‘The Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing.’ John 5:19 (ESV)

‘Faith is a footbridge that you don’t know will hold you up over the chasm until you’re forced to walk out onto it.’ **Nicholas Wolterstorff**

‘All life worth living is difficult; nobody promised us happiness; it is not a commodity you have earned or shall ever earn. It is a by-product of brave living, and it never comes in the form we expect, or at the season we hoped for, or as the result of our planning for it.’ **Katherine Anne Porter**

23

‘Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.’ Ecclesiastes 12:13 (ESV)

‘But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.’ 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

‘The opposite of sensitive is not brave. It’s not brave to refuse to pay attention, to refuse to notice, to refuse to feel and know and imagine. The opposite of sensitive is insensitive, and that is no badge of honour.’ **Glennon Doyle**

‘All joy reminds. It is never a possession, always a desire, for something longer ago or further away or still ‘about to be.’ **C. S. Lewis**

24

‘You do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.’ John 5:38 (ESV)

‘By his wounds you have been healed.’ 1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath,
My wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe;
I told it not,
My wrath did grow. **Robert Blake**

‘Believe God’s love and power more than you believe your own feelings and experiences. Your rock is Christ, and it is not the rock that ebbs and flows but the sea.’

Samuel Rutherford

25

‘Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name.’ Jeremiah 50:34 (ESV)

‘For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.’ 1 Peter 3:12 (ESV)

‘The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts.’

C. S. Lewis

‘Bad information is worse than no information at all.’ **Nassim Taleb**

A Christian is not a man who never goes wrong, but a man who is enabled to repent and begin over again after each stumble, because the Christ life is inside him, repairing him all the time.’ **C. S. Lewis**

26

‘As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.’ 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

‘Do not judge by appearances, but judge by right judgment.’ John 7:24 (ESV)

‘Behind every achievement lies a long, unseen journey.’ **Shane Parrish**

‘Dougie stared in disbelief. There, in front of him, the scar on the hill. The felling of trees, but not just trees. Ancient woodland that had stood for centuries. Irreplaceable. And in the place of the Tinker camp that had been there every summer for as long as he could remember was a stain. Scorched land.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

‘It wasn’t so easy without his family there beside him, behind him, just knowing that he was completely alone. There was only him in this world and it ached.’ **Fiona Curnow**

27

‘For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God.’ 1 Peter 4:17 (ESV)

‘Many waters cannot quench love.’ Song of Solomon 8:7 (ESV)

‘Presence is its own form of power.’ **Amanda Held Opelt**

‘Which are the magic moments in ordinary time? All of them, for those who can see. That is what redemption means.’ **Tim Dlugos**

‘The wee road, dotted with passing places, sucked its way around the lock then veered off into nothingness. As it did so his anxiety began to slip away; desolation was comfort, the trees that flanked one side friends, the bleak moorland that stretched up the sides of the mountain likewise, he knew this. He could breathe here.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

28

‘Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.’ 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)

‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning.’ Lamentations 3:2 (ESV)

‘Grace, like water, flows to the lowest part.’ **Philip Yancey**

‘It is true that becoming an empathetic listener takes time, but it doesn’t take anywhere near as much time as it takes to back up and correct misunderstandings when you’re already miles down the road, to redo, and to live with unexpressed and unsolved problems.’ **Stephen Covey**

29

‘Let him sit in silence when it is laid on him.’ Lamentations 3:28 (ESV)

‘Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.’ 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

‘When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.’ **Corrie Ten Boom**

‘For the past year he had tried not to think about his loss. It hurt too much. But now it felt like he could, he should. Memories like that couldn’t be allowed to fade. He had no one to tell stories to. No one to share the family history with. Such an integral part of his life – of their lives – had been snatched from him. It was a part of his soul. Sharing in stories, huddling around a campfire, listening to the soft sounds of his parents’ voices, the laughter of his brothers, the singing of their songs.’

Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow

30

‘Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored.’ Lamentations 5:21 (ESV)

‘Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ John 7:38 (ESV)

‘God will use every circumstance in our lives to help us mature - if we stay teachable.’
Charles Swindoll

‘He would keep to the same routine every day. A grounding. A predictability. A passage of time. The days would keep shrinking; the sun, when it chose to show itself, lying so low it was barely there at all. Harsh and glaring. Blinding. Then gone again. Shadows then darkness. He would hunker down, stay safe here until he could smell that change in the air. The softening of spring like the whisper of a mother’s breath on a fevered brow.’ ***Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow***

‘The fear that those men had settled on him wouldn’t shift... As hard as he tried, even the wildness couldn’t shift it. The whistle of the trees. The swoop of an eagle. The cawing of the crows. They brought a smile to his face. A whisper of joy. But crouching there in the depth, always that fear.’ **Fiona Curnow**

31

‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness.’ John 8:12 (ESV)

‘He makes peace in your borders.’ Psalm 147:14 (ESV)

‘I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.’ **Martin Luther**

‘The man, Dougie, had been kind. He had cut Tommy’s hair for him, given him a razor. They had shared quiet evenings by the campfire. This man didn’t need to talk like most folk did. He was quiet and listened to the sounds of the wild. They would identify the calls of birds, guess at the scurry through the undergrowth or the clamber up trees. Sit still and silent as deer approached, both delighting in the closeness, that trust between man and beast.’ ***Before the Swallows Come Back* - Fiona Curnow**

‘Silence, until her senses adjusted. The air. So pure and clean that it washed her, lifted her mind, her body. That smell. Forest and farm and river and meadow. And that sound. That quiet that wasn’t quiet at all. The rustling of the leaves. The flow of the river. The call of the crows. The songs of blackbird, robin, lapwing, sparrow and so many more. That choir. It felt, for a moment, as if nothing had changed.’ **Fiona Curnow**

November

1 ‘A culture of individualism saturates our society.’ **Terry Real**

‘His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.’ 2 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

‘The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.’ Job 1:21 (ESV)

‘The truth is whispered while opinions are shouted.’ **Shane Parrish**

‘Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.’ **Ian MacLaren**

‘Our nervous systems were never designed to self-regulate. We all filter our sense of stability and well-being through our connections to others.’ **Terry Real**

2

‘The Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet.’ Ezekiel 2:2 (ESV)

‘We were eyewitnesses of his majesty.’ 2 Peter 1:6 (ESV)

‘When I isolate and lean away from people, I struggle. But when I engage and lean into community with others, I find healing.’ **Brandon Cox**

‘Power is never solely a matter of position; it is also a matter of one’s ethical stature, and wherever that is lacking, we have no responsibility to mindlessly follow.’

Philip Gulley

‘Mattering is the sense that we are valued by others and that we have value to contribute to the world. At its core, mattering answers our most fundamental human questions: Am I valued? Does my presence make a difference?’

Mattering - Jennifer Breheny-Wallace

3

‘Blessed be the glory of the Lord.’ Ezekiel 3:12 (ESV)

‘And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.’ Job 2:13 (ESV)

‘Mattering is highly actionable and built from specific ingredients that are captured by the acronym SAID: feeling significant (seen and essential), appreciated (valued for who you are and what you contribute), invested in (supported and cared for), and depended on (needed by others).’ **Mattering - Jennifer Breheny-Wallace**

‘If you seek nothing but the will of God, He will always put you in the right place at the right time. The power of God will take you out of your own plans and put you into the plan of God.’ **Smith Wigglesworth**

4

‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’ John 8:11 (ESV)

‘The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials.’ 2 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

‘Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.’ **Martin Luther**

‘The more you perceive God’s purpose in your life, the less terrible the losses seem.’ **Elizabeth Elliot**

‘There was no need for words. Each could read the other’s thoughts... This would be a night under the stars.’ **Before the Swallows Come Back - Fiona Curnow**

‘What surprised her was the hardness of her resolve, how easy it seemed to turn her back on what she had loved, leave this house on the lane to the cliff for others to know, for others to come to in the summer and fill with different noises. As she sat looking out at the bruised sky over the sea, she sighed. Finally, she let herself feel how much she

had lost, how much she would miss. She got out of the car, steadying herself against the wind.' **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

5

'Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.' Ezekiel 9:4 (ESV)

'For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.' 2 Peter 2:19 (ESV)

'Wisdom is anticipating the consequences of your choices.' **Shane Parrish**

'Loneliness and the feeling of being uncared for and unwanted are the greatest poverty.' **Mother Teresa**

'Once the train started, the boys wanted everything: to view the toilets, to stand in the precarious space between the carriages where the ground could be seen as they sped along, to go to the restaurant and buy lemonade. By the time the train stopped in Ferns, they had done all of these things, and by the time it reached Camolin, they had fallen asleep.' **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

6

'I will give you the land of Israel.' Ezekiel 11:17 (ESV)

'For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.' Job 5:18 (ESV)

'Miracles are not my ministry. Jesus is my ministry.' **Kathryn Kuhlman**

'If we don't know that we need help, prayer will always be peripheral to our lives, more a matter of good manners than anything else. But the moment we know we are in trouble; prayer becomes a life-or-death matter.' **Ryan Huguley**

'I brought you some books,' Josie said, putting the carrier bag she had been holding on to the floor. 'I don't know what you'll think of them, some novels, and the rest are what you might call theology, although they are not as dry as they sound. The book at the top is by Thomas Merton, I mentioned him to you already, just after the funeral, and then there's Teilhard de Chardin. I spoke to Maurice about him in the hospital. But anyway, see what you think of them.' **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

7

‘The word that I speak will be performed, declares the Lord God.’ Ezekiel 12:28 (ESV)

‘You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ John 8:32 (ESV)

‘If you want to be happy, try only to please God, not people.’ **Leo Tolstoy**

‘She looked again at the prayers she had chosen for Maurice’s memory card. The words lifted her for a moment from the consideration of how she was going to make a living, of how much she had lost, but when she looked again at the prayers, tears filled her eyes, and she was glad that Jim and Margaret were not here and that the boys had gone to bed as she read the opening words: “We give them back to Thee, O God, who gave them to us.”’ **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

8

‘They have misled my people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace.’ Ezekiel 13:10 (ESV)

‘The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire.’ 2 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

‘It isn’t necessary that we stay in church in order to remain in God’s presence. We can make our hearts personal chapels where we can enter anytime to talk to God privately. These conversations can be so loving and gentle, and anyone can have them. Is there any reason not to begin?’ **Brother Lawrence**

‘At the moment the only topic she could discuss was herself. And everyone, she felt, had heard enough about her. They believed it was time that she stop brooding and think of other things. But there were no other things. There was only what had happened. It was as though she lived under water and had given up on the struggle to swim towards air. It would be too much. Being released into the world of others seemed impossible.’
Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín

9

‘We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.’ 2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

‘I will speak in the anguish of my spirit.’ Job 7:11 (ESV)

Only one life, will soon be past.

Only what’s done for Christ will last. **C. T. Studd**

‘She remembered how much Donal had resented Conor when he was a baby and people paid him attention. Or if Conor got a new toy, even something Donal had

outgrown, he would manipulate things so that he would have control of the toy and decide when Conor could have it and when he could not. Conor always let him do this as though it were natural. But it was not natural now.' **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

'The death of their father had entered into a part of them that, as far as she could see, they were not aware of. They could not see how uneasy they were, and maybe no one but she could see it, yet it was something that would not leave them now, she thought, would not leave them for years.' **Colm Tóibín**

10

'The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself.' Ezekiel 18:20 (ESV)

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day.' John 9:3 (ESV)

'We do not want a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.' **G. K. Chesterton**

'So, this was what being alone was like, she thought. It was not the solitude she had been going through, nor the moments when she felt his death like a shock to her system, as though she had been in a car accident, it was this wandering in a sea of people with the anchor lifted, and all of it oddly pointless and confusing.'

Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín

'There is no better way to heal yourself than singing in a choir,' Laurie said. 'That is why God made music. You know I had my own troubles. Coming out of a convent at fifty and hardly a friend in the world. And it was the choir that got me started again. That was the one thing I had, my voice, and the piano, although I trained first on the harpsichord. That was my first love.' **Colm Tóibín**

11

'We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.' 1 John 1:4 (ESV)

'One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' John 9:25 (ESV)

'The voice of God indeed daily calls to us; calls to the world to abandon sins and seek the kingdom of God wholeheartedly.' **C. S. Lewis**

'It was only after a month, when she had had four or five lessons, that she realised that the music was leading her away from Maurice, away from her life with him, and her life with the children. But it was not merely that Maurice had no ear for music, and that music was something they had never shared. It was the intensity of her time here; she

was alone with herself in a place where he would never have followed her, even in death.’ **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

‘Nora stood in the shadows so that no one on the street could see her. It was a movement from Grieg's Piano Concerto and, even though it was not turned up loud, it sounded to her as though the pianist were in the shop with them. She could hear every note clearly, but it was not just that, she could also feel an energy from the playing that made the sound seem urgent and present.’ **Colm Tóibín**

12

‘The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.’ 1 John 1:7 (ESV)

‘I will set beauty in the land of the living.’ Ezekiel 26:20 (ESV)

‘In our world of loneliness and despair, there is an enormous need for men and women who know the heart of God, a heart that forgives, that cares, that reaches out and wants to heal.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Nora concentrated on the low, pleading sound. The energy in the playing was sad, and then it became more than sad, as if there were something there and all three players recognised it and were moving towards it. The melody rose more beautifully, and she was sure that someone had suffered, and moved away from suffering and then come back to it, let it linger and live within them.’ **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

‘The idea of what she might do with the rooms downstairs kept her awake. She had to remind herself that she was free now, that there was no Maurice who would be cautious about costs, and grumpy about anything that would cause disruption to his routine. She was free. She could make any decision she liked about the house. She felt almost guilty as it occurred to her now that she could do whatever pleased her.’ **Colm Tóibín**

13

‘I am the door of the sheep. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.’ John 10:9 (ESV)

‘Whoever does the will of God abides for ever.’ 1 John 2:17 (ESV)

‘In all that we do, the driving passion of the Christian must always be *‘Soli Deo Gloria,’* to God alone be the glory.’ **R. C. Sproul**

‘She did not feel remorse. Instead, as she looked at her mother's dead face, she felt a closeness to her, a connection that she had in some way always felt, but never acted on, or spoken about.

The face, cleared of suffering and of familiar expression, resembled her mother in old photographs when she had a thin, dark, shy, watchful beauty. That, or traces of it, had returned. Her mother would have liked the idea that her youth, or some part of it, had come back.' **Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín**

14

'Your care has preserved my spirit.' Job 10:12 (ESV)

'There will be one flock, one shepherd.' John 10:16 (ESV)

'God is always speaking to us, but it requires spiritual discernment to hear God's voice, see what God says, and read the signs in daily life.' **Henri Nouwen**

'Over the next few hours neighbours came. They each knelt down and said a prayer. A few leaned in to touch the dead woman's hands with rosary beads entwined, or her forehead. They nodded at Nora and a few whispered to her, about how peaceful her mother looked, or how she had gone to a better place, or how she would be missed.'

Nora Webster – Colm Tóibín

'Nora would make sure that there were candles kept burning and that her mother was not alone on her last night in the world. There was silence in the house, broken sometimes by the passing of cars and by the rattling of the windows in the bedroom in the night wind.' **Colm Tóibín**

15

'But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.' 1 John 2:20 (ESV)

'The Father is in me and I am in the Father.' John 10:38 (ESV)

'Every choice has a cost. When you say yes to one thing, you say no to others.'

Shane Parrish

'The trees fall silent but my heart raps like a tree hollow being chiselled out by a woodpecker.' **All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan**

'Senele's (grandmother) voice grows weary, and the words cease. She rocks back and forth, her arms around her torso. We stand together around Tévás's (father) bed and yet I feel lonelier than ever. She looks to me, but I can't find voice or the words, and so silence descends.' **Lauren Keegan**

16

‘In his hand is the life of every living thing.’ Job 12:10 (ESV)

‘The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.’ 1 John 3:8 (ESV)

‘Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘Like the bees in a hive, the families in the settlement work together, respect each other and put the needs of the community before their own.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

‘Maryte’s blood pulses through her body, the familiar rush of scaling a tree, rising above the forest, the same as men. It is almost as intoxicating as Baltrus’s honey mead.

Thinking of Baltrus and his mead-making reminds her of another responsibility she will inherit. Honey, wax and mead are how they paid their taxes, and if they don’t pay their taxes, they will lose their right to tree beekeeping. They will lose their livelihood, not to mention their traditions.’ **Lauren Keegan**

17

‘Though he slay me, I will hope in him.’ Job 13:15 (ESV)

‘I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26 (ESV)

‘Fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm fearsome, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore. They leave that wisdom to those to whom it appeals. When the storm comes - when night falls - what is worse: the danger or the fear of danger? Give me reality, the danger itself.’ **Vincent Van Gogh**

‘What will I do without Tévas? He is the only person who doesn’t ask me to be someone else. The only person who sees me. Saw me.

A sob escapes and my body shudders. I did not think there were any more tears left to shed. But, just like spring, the drying of the well is holding off a bit longer.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

‘To care about those outside her family, her bees and the community is too much weight to bear. Grief has already settled upon her shoulders.’ **Lauren Keegan**

18

‘Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.’ John 11:25 (ESV)

‘Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.’ 1 John 3:18 (ESV)

‘Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately true.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘She will find peace with her loss by continuing with her duties. She hopes it will help her daughters heal too: she sent them out upon the priest's arrival. Keeping her daughters busy and going about their usual duties will help the long days without Baltrus pass more easily. It may seem like punishment, but she only wants to help them.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

‘She leans against the doorframe, waiting. Waiting, A buzzing within her chest, rattling around, waiting to soar. She imagines the bees feel restless too, impatient for the weather to be just right, the temperature warm enough to leave behind the safety of their winter cocoon. In winter the bees hibernate but so too does Maryte's soul.’

Lauren Keegan

19

‘I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you.’ Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

Do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.’ 1 John 4:1 (ESV)

‘The whole world is a series of miracles. But we are so used to them we call them ordinary things.’ **Hans Christian Andersen**

‘Work hard in silence. Let your success be your noise.’ **Frank Ocean**

‘Uncertainty. It always unsettles her. Her entire life is guided by the seasons of a beekeeper. The structure is containing, but the changeable timeframe is not. She knows spring will come, her husband will be buried, and the honey will be harvested, but when exactly is not within her control. It is in the hands of everything around her: The forest, the sky and the earth. Deities. God.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

20

‘Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.’ 1 John 4:7 (ESV)

‘He who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.’ Job 17:9 (ESV)

‘When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or you take them with gratitude.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘However much you deny the truth, the truth goes on existing.’ **George Orwell**

‘Though she often finds solace in the church, today she is relieved to no longer be indoors. The ecclesial room inside mimics the forest; its pillars and columns simulate the tree trunks of the pines that surround the building.’

All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan

21

‘Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.’ 1 John 5:12 (ESV)

‘And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ John 12:32 (ESV)

‘If you aren’t constantly astonished at God’s grace in your solitude there is no way it can happen in public.’ **Tim Keller**

‘I can see why my mother adores this community so much. I've often felt stifled by the smallness of it, but for Motina, it is security. Even with all the rules and regulations- such as a young woman being in the presence of a man, or men, alone - common sense prevails, and they do what needs to be done.’

All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan

22

‘Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary.’ Ezekiel 47:12 (ESV)

‘For I have not spoken on my own authority.’ John 12:49 (ESV)

‘The most important thing is to remember that we are all doing the very best we can with the knowledge, resources, and energy that we have available to us.’ **Brené Brown**

‘Marytè has certainly never been afraid of the quiet and she's always been more at ease in her own company than those of others. Though the grief of her lost babies is a burden on her heart, she is not quite sure how she’d have coped with a house full of rambunctious children like her mother had. Perhaps that's why she was drawn to her father's placid temperament and his work with the bees. It took her away from the busy house and her siblings.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan***

23

‘For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.’ Job 19:25 (ESV)

‘The name of the city from that time on shall be, *‘The Lord is There.’* Ezekiel 48:35 (ESV)

‘End your journey well. Don’t waste your life, and don’t be satisfied with anything less than God’s plan.’ **Billy Graham**

‘The bare prose of our humanity is, by God, turned into poetry.’ **Rowan Williams**

‘Marytè’s chest tightens. It is in these moments she does not know what to say to take away her daughters’ pain, when she too feels the pain so deeply within herself. She also misses Baltrus. She misses how he’d bring laughter and ease to their home. Without him it is sombre and tense.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

‘It was Baltrus who encouraged her to focus on their important role and to not be caught up in what they could not control. They left behind their own families because this was an opportunity to start afresh. Together they continued doing what they loved, even if it meant honey became barter for taxes - though she had never been able to let go of her resentment. The forest should belong to no one.’ **Lauren Keegan**

24

‘Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever... he reveals deep and hidden things.’ Daniel 2:20,22 (ESV)

‘The God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed.’ Daniel 2:44 (ESV)

‘God’s will is hard only when it comes up against our stubbornness, then it is as cruel as a ploughshare and as devastating as an earthquake.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘It should no longer surprise me how life can change in an instant. When my brother passed last winter, I felt then for the first time in life a deep sense of loss. Azuolas was more reserved than Tévas, but his absence was like the gaping hole left by an uprooted tree: at surface level it is concealed but the damage is palpable when you peer a little closer. Now with Tévas gone, it’s as if every pine in the forest has been wrenched from the earth and tumbled aside. It’s as if there’s a big gaping hole in my gut that will never be filled.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

25

‘The Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. Daniel 4:25 (ESV)

‘He does according to his will... among the inhabitants of the earth.’ Daniel 4:35 (ESV)

‘Do not be discouraged. The Holy Spirit is not asleep.’ **Thomas Merton**

‘A mystic is a person whose identity is deeply rooted in God’s first love.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Tévas was always like the bridge over the river, keeping us connected even when it felt like we were flowing in different directions. Without his light, everything feels dark and heavy. Motina is distant and preoccupied. She's standing with Elena and Aldona but her fixed smile never reaches her eyes. Two deaths and someone tampering with the hollows have troubled her.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

26

‘The God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honoured.’ Daniel 5:23 (ESV)

‘A new command I give to you, that you love one another.’ John 13:34 (ESV)

‘The past is frozen and no longer flows, and the present is all lit up with eternal rays.’

C. S. Lewis

‘The way to love anything is to realise it may be lost.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘She breathes in the floral scent and for the first time since Baltrus left, the tension eases. It is here she sinks into the tender earth. It is here tears spring to life and trickle down her cheeks. Tears of sadness and joy.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

27

‘No kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.’ Daniel 6:23 (ESV)

‘How will you comfort me with empty nothings? Job 21:34 (ESV)

‘We do not segment our lives, giving some time to God, some to our business or schooling, while keeping parts to ourselves. The idea is to live all of our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God and for the honour and glory of God. That is what the Christian life is all about. **R. C. Sproul**

‘Mothering her children is fraught with complications. There are feelings and personalities to consider. She never seems to get it right. She loves her daughters, with all her heart, but at times she does not know if it is reciprocated. Or whether she deserves their love. With bees there is no guesswork. They are wonderfully predictable and loyal.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

28

‘This horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them until the Ancient of Days came.’ Daniel 7:21-22 (ESV)

If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it.’ John 14:14 (ESV)

‘Spiritual rebirth is an evergreen openness to let the Spirit of Jesus blow us where it pleases.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘Her children look to her for guidance - even now - in ways beyond her capabilities. She can teach them to sow, to bake bread, to climb a tree, but when their eyes are trained on her with uncertainty about the bigger things in life, such as meaning and religion and grief, Marytè is lost. When they come to her with these emotions, these questions, she feels herself close off. She has never been taught herself. She had no guidance after her father's death and so learned to rely only upon herself, and later, Baltrus.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

29

‘But I kept the matter in my heart.’ Daniel 7:28 (ESV)

‘For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness but because of your great mercy.’ Daniel 9:18 (ESV)

‘All God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow.’

Robert Louis Stevenson

‘I too have experienced this. For many years after I lost my Ignas, my only son to survive birth, he was with us through two seasons, but afterwards, I would see him in the clearing. Not far from where you stood with Liudvikas. Running around collecting insects, living the life I’d hoped he would one day have. Aldona sighs. ‘But it was not meant to be. There is nothing pathetic about grieving those we love.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

30

‘But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.’ Daniel 11:32 (ESV)

‘Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy.’ Revelation 1:3 (ESV)

‘Other people are going to find healing in your wounds. Your greatest life messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts.’ **Rick Warren**

‘Fallacies do not cease to be fallacies because they become fashions.’

G. K. Chesterton

‘It is strange how this forest can protect us from threats but simultaneously keep us naive about what is happening beyond the treetops. My rare trips to Alytus or Kaunas as a child were like visiting another country. The city generated curiosity and excitement. As a child, who did not feel a calling in beekeeping, I had been enticed by the sights the smells and the sounds of the modern people of society. I had been biding my time ever since to escape to Alytus, away from the peasant life, away from the monotony of forest life.’ ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

December

1

‘And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky.’ Daniel 12:3 (ESV)

‘Let not your hearts be troubled.’ John 14:1 (ESV)

‘The best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.’

Mother Teresa

‘I can't help but carry my mother's worry within me. My stomach stirs. How will we make it through winter with only half of our supplies? If our crops are damaged or there is no meat to eat, we always have our honey. But without honey, we have nothing.’

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

‘The bees are loud today. They are in love with the warm weather and the abundance of flowers in the forest. She knows it will not be long now. There has been a repetitive, irregular sound coming from some of the hollows in the past few days. Bee hollows are busy...’ **Lauren Keegan**

2

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14:6 (ESV)

'When he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.' Job 23:10 (ESV)

'The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.' **Oswald Chambers**

'Grief: an earth-shattering moment that changes you as a person forever.' **Mark Lemon**

'She recalls feeling this way after her father's death upon the first harvest. Grief and sadness and yearning, but also eagerness to distance herself from these feelings and focus on collecting honey. There is something deeply satisfying in bringing in a harvest on her own. Being self-reliant.' **All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan**

3

'I will make the Valley of Achor (trouble) a door of hope.' Hosea 2:15 (ESV)

'He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.' John 14:16 (ESV)

'Deeds will not be less valiant because they are unpraised.' **J. R. R. Tolkien**

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you,
In heaven's sight.

So may God grace you,
Heal and embrace you,
Lead you through darkness,
Into the light.

Old Scottish Hymn

'Failure. That's how she feels. She failed her family and failed her bees. She only lasted a few months after losing her husband before her body fell apart and her mind plunged into dark thoughts she so desperately tried to avoid. The mead provokes them, yanks them out of the depths of her mind and parades them around in front of her in her rare waking hours.' **All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan**

4

‘My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.’ Hosea 4:6 (ESV)

‘Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.’ John 15:2 (ESV)

‘You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for is own improvement and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.’ **Marie Curie**

‘No more time for self-pity. She will not let her daughters down. She will not abandon them the way her own mother did her. She could not do that to them, or to herself. She knows she committed a sin, and she will repent. She plans to confess to the priest - he probably already knows but she will tell him anyway - and she will do what it takes to get back on the righteous path. To become the mother her daughters deserve and a beekeeper deserving of bees.’ **All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan**

5

‘Come let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us.’ Hosea 6:1 (ESV)

‘Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.’ Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

‘To know that God knows everything about me and yet loves me is indeed my ultimate consolation.’ **R. C. Sproul**

‘In life you have a choice: bitter or better? Choose better. Forget bitter. You can either be angry for what you don’t have or thankful for what you do have.’ **Nick Vujicic**

‘It was suppressed fear, buried secrets stomped down into the depths of her soul along with any painful emotions she ever experienced, the ones she doesn't like to acknowledge or feel. One little trickle dropping upon another, until her body was flooded with so much pain, regret and hurt that there was nowhere else to hide. It seeped out of every crack and crevice.’ **All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan**

6

‘You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.’ John 15:16 (ESV)

‘The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments.’ Revelation 3:5 (ESV)

‘We need others physically, emotionally, intellectually; we need them if we are to know anything, even ourselves.’ **C. S. Lewis**

History is said to be written by victors. Fiction, by contrast, is largely the work of injured bystanders.' **Edna O'Brien**

'Death, loss, abandonment, change. An interwoven pattern that snakes throughout her life. It has kept her wound up, it has kept her at a distance from the people she loves, it made her push them away when she wanted to pull them closer, hold on tight.

She's made a mess of it all.' ***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

7

'Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord.' Hosea 10:12 (ESV)

'If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.' John 15:20 (ESV)

'The purpose of discernment is to know God's will, that is, to find, accept, and affirm the unique way in which God's love is manifest in our life.' **Henri Nouwen**

'The learning and growing never stops. And with each ripple in the stream, each new direction, she is carried along, whether she likes it or not. Austija has proven she has what it takes to keep her head above the water when life takes a new direction. And Marytè will prove to her daughter she can do it too.'

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

8

'It was I who knew you in the wilderness.' Hosea 13:5 (ESV)

'He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.' John 16:14 (ESV)

'Your calendar is the most honest autobiography you will ever write.' **Shane Parrish**

'There's balance in the forest again. I can feel the change as I walk along the forest path. Negative energies are drawn out and cast aside. It is not exactly peace, but there's comfort in truths being unearthed and the seeds of hope scattered among the pines.'

***All the Bees in the Hollows* – Lauren Keegan**

'Senelè gave me the gift of trusting my instincts, leaning into my connection with the forest and, most importantly, trusting myself. I will hold her wisdom within me; it'll strengthen my bones, direct the blood flow through my body, sharpen my senses.'

Lauren Keegan

9

‘When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.’ John 16:13 (ESV)

‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever.’ Revelation 5:13 (ESV)

‘I never feared about my skills because I put in the work. Work ethic eliminates fear. So, if you do the work, what are you fearing? You know what you are capable of and what you are not.’ **Michael Jordan**

‘In time, we will be able to look towards the future, instead of the past. Because in the past lies hurt and pain. The future is tantalisingly hopeful.’

All the Bees in the Hollows – Lauren Keegan

‘Memories are never grey.’ **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

10

‘Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.’ John 16:24 (ESV)

‘The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.’ Joel 2:31 (ESV)

‘A pleasure is only full grown when it is remembered.’ **C. S. Lewis**

‘A man needs to have a dream. Without it, life becomes grey, banal, like life in the grey zone of Donbas between the Russian and Ukrainian positions.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

‘But the war hadn't made Sergeyich fear for his life. It had only made him confused, and indifferent to everything around him. It was as if he had lost all feeling, all his senses, except for one: his sense of responsibility. And this sense, which could make him worry terribly at any hour of the day, was focused entirely on one object: his bees.’

Andrey Kurkov

11

‘The Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.’ Joel 3:16 (ESV)

‘Father, the hour is come, glorify your son that the son may glorify you.’ John 17:1 (ESV)

‘Patience means to enter actively into the thick of life and to fully bear the suffering within and around us.’ **Henri Nouwen**

'It was usually Sergeyich's feet, not his thoughts, that would bring him out to the edge of the garden. He would often wander through the yard, surveying his property. First, he would peek into the shed, to check on the bees, then into the ramshackle garage, to check on his old green Lada estate. Then he would walk over to his heap of long-flame coal, which grew smaller every night but still gave him confidence in a heated tomorrow and day after tomorrow. Sometimes his feet might bring him to the orchard, and then he would pause by the hibernating apple and apricot trees. And sometimes, though less often, he would find himself on the very edge of the garden, with the snow's endless crust crunching and crumbling beneath his feet.' **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

12

'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. Revelation 7:10 (ESV)

'As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.' John 17:18 (ESV)

'God created everything out of nothing,
Wonderful you say -
Yes, to be sure, but

He does what is still more wonderful:
He makes saints
Out of sinners.'

Soren Kierkegaard

'The silence around here was of a special sort, of course. Sounds to which you have grown accustomed, to which you no longer pay any attention, are also fused into silence. Like the sound of distant shelling, for example. Even now (Sergeyich forced himself to listen) they were firing somewhere to the right, about fifteen kilometres away - and also to the left, unless that was an echo.' **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

13

'Hate evil, and love good.' Amos 5:15 (ESV)

'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.'
Revelation 11:15 (ESV)

'The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man.' **G. K. Chesterton**

‘Sergeyich walked over the next morning and found two boxes of candles in the stone outbuilding, which the explosion had torn wide open. He took them home - first one, then the other. Give and you shall receive - that's what the Bible says. For years and years he had donated his beeswax to the church, precisely so that the priest could make candles. He had given and given and then received these candles as a gift from the Lord. They came in an hour of need, when the power was cut off. And so, they serve him now that light bulbs are useless. This too is holy work, after all - to brighten man's life in dark times. **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

14

Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land - not a famine for bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.’ Amos 5:11 (ESV)

‘But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.’ Jonah 1:3 (ESV)

‘There are no words to express the abyss between isolation and having one ally.’

G. K. Chesterton

‘Fear not the storm. It brings healing in its wings and when Jesus is with you in the vessel the tempest only hastens the ship to its desired haven.’ **Charles Spurgeon**

‘Once again his thoughts returned to the dead man in the field. But this time Sergeyich's thoughts hastened to bring him cheer, suggesting that the dead man would soon be hidden from view. After all, snow as heavy as this would cover everything up for a good long time, until the springtime thaw. And in spring all would change: nature would awake, birdsong would drown out the cannon fire - because the birds would be nearby, while the cannons would stay over there, far away.’ **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

15

‘I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them.’ Amos 9:14 (ESV)

‘They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.’ Revelation 12:11 (ESV)

‘God will never reveal more truth about himself until you have obeyed what you know already.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘And if the war did continue into spring, Sergeyich would leave the village to Pashka and take his bees - all six hives - to where there was no war; where the fields weren't

pockmarked by craters but covered in buckwheat or wildflowers; where you could walk without fear through woods, across meadows and along country roads; where there were lots of people...' **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

16

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.' Micah 4:2 (ESV)

'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.' Revelation 14:7 (ESV)

'Gratitude flows from the recognition that all that is, is a divine gift born out of love and freely given to us so that we may offer thanks and share it with others.' **Henri Nouwen**

'Life was calm and satisfying. In the summers he enjoyed the buzzing of his bees, and in the winter the peace and quiet, the snowy whiteness of the fields and the total stillness of the grey sky. He could have lived out his days in that way, but something intervened. Something broke in the country, in Kyiv, where nothing had ever been quite right. It broke so badly that painful cracks ran along the country, as if along a sheet of glass, and then blood began to seep through these cracks. That was the start of the war, the sense of which had, for three years now, remained a mystery to Sergeyich.'

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

17

'The hour to reap has come for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.' Revelation 14:15 (ESV)

'Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds.' Job 36:29 (ESV)

'Gardening is reflective and meditative. It quietens the mind and teaches patience.'

Emmaline Bowman

'Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.'

Victor Hugo

'The first shell hit the church, and the very next morning people began to leave Little Starhorodivka. First, fathers bundled their wives and children off to safety, wherever they had relatives: Russia, Odessa, Mykolayiv. Then the fathers themselves left, some becoming "separatists", others refugees. The last to be taken away were the old men and women. They were dragged off weeping and cursing. The noise was awful. And

then, one day, things grew so quiet that Sergeyich stepped out onto Lenin Street and was nearly deafened by the silence.' **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

18

'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' Micah 6:8 (ESV)

'For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you.' Revelation 15:4 (ESV)

'How to avoid God: Avoid silence, avoid solitude, avoid any train of thought that leads off the beaten track. Concentrate on money, sex, status, health and (above all) on your own grievances. Keep the radio on. Live in a crowd. Use plenty of sedation.' **C. S. Lewis**

'His job had been an important one: safety inspector. He had been down certain mines twenty times or more. He had got such a lungful of their safety that he became a disabled pensioner at forty-two. Silicosis is no joke. But the fact that it's so common among people who work underground makes it something like the flu. Just people coughing, that's all...' **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

19

'But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.' Micah 7:7 (ESV)

'His way is in the whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.' Nahum 1:3 (ESV)

'Worry, fear, distrust, care - all are poisonous! Joy is balm and healing, and if you will but rejoice, God will give power.' **A. B. Simpson**

'The evening murk pressed into the white snow, turning it grey. Ever since he was a child, Sergeyich had liked the colour grey. But in this instance, it did not please him. He suddenly thought of the fact that his clothes were dark, and in the snow, be it day or morning, he was as visible to snipers as the murdered man had been.'

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

20

‘He does not retain his anger for ever, because he delights in steadfast love.’ Micah 7:18 (ESV)

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth.’ Job 38:4 (ESV)

The Prayer of St. Columba

Be a bright flame before me, O God
a guiding star above me.
Be a smooth path below me,
a kindly shepherd behind me
Today, tonight, and for ever.
Alone with none but you, my God
I journey on my way;
what need I fear when you are near,
O Lord of night and day?
More secure am I within your hand
than if a multitude did round me stand.
Amen.

‘In the biblical sense, if you give me your blessing, you irreversibly convey into my life not just something of the beneficent power and vitality of who you are, but something also of the life-giving power of God, in whose name the blessing is given.’

Frederick Buechner

21

‘For am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.’ Habakkuk 1:5 (ESV)

‘They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them.’ Revelation 17:14 (ESV)

‘No one heals himself by wounding another.’ **St. Ambrose**

‘Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.’

St. Therese of Lisieux

Sergeyich glanced at his neighbour Vera’s house as he walked past. The windows were intact, and a board was nailed across the door. The board had grown dark with the changing weather, but he could still see the inscription Vera had made, in black paint: THE OWNERS ARE ALIVE.

‘God willing, God willing...’ the beekeeper muttered. **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

22

‘For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end – it will not lie.’
Habakkuk 2:3 (ESV)

‘I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth, declares the Lord.’
Zephaniah 1:2 (ESV)

‘In a world of noise, confusion and conflict it is necessary that there be places of silence, inner discipline and peace. In such places love can blossom.’ **Thomas Merton**

‘The true church is not defined by numbers, but by those who tremble at His word.’
David Wilkerson

‘Sergeyich stood above the sniper's lair, sighed, and shrugged. What he saw brought no comprehensible thought to mind. But it did make him feel cold.

If these guys are shooting at the Ukes from over here, then sooner or later the Ukes will respond with artillery, Sergeyich thought.

And he imagined a shell flying from the direction of Zhdanivka, asking itself: Where should I land? Then he saw it veering in its flight, towards his own house.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

23

‘For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.’ Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)

‘Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near.’ Zephaniah 1:7 (ESV)

‘Art consists of limitation. The most beautiful part of every picture is the frame... Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘If only the power weren't out, life would be easier, less time to think, less of these useless worries and suspicions. He would watch television before bed. There would be a pot of noodles in the fridge, already cooked. And if he got hungry, he would toss them into a frying pan and crack two eggs...

Sergeyich sighed. Damn it. Those eggs wouldn't let him be. He couldn't stop thinking about them - a priceless commodity that seemed within reach.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

24

‘But the Lord is in his holy temple; let the earth keep silence before him. Habakkuk 2:20 (ESV)

‘Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land.’ Zephaniah 2:2 (ESV)

‘Some books are like lamps. When a part of our experience lies half-shaded in a corner, the right book can illumine the rest.’ **Joel J. Miller**

‘There is something in humility that strangely exalts the heart.’ **St. Augustine**

‘Fear is an invisible thing, subtle and variable, like a virus or bacterium. It can be inhaled with a breath of air or accidentally imbibed with a sip of water or vodka or come in through your ears - and you can certainly catch it with your eyes, so badly that its image will remain in your pupils even after the fear itself has disappeared.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

25

‘Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail, and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.’ Habakkuk 3:17-18 (ESV)

‘Behold I am making all things new.’ Revelation 21:5 (ESV)

‘God is a God of the living, and wherever God’s loving presence becomes known, we see life bursting forth.’ **Henri Nouwen**

‘From somewhere far away - in the direction he was travelling, but beyond Svitle - came the thuds of artillery. But they sounded so distant that Sergeych didn't even slow down; he wasn't walking very fast in any case. He kept his eyes on the ground directly in front of him. They were accustomed to that greyness. Black plus white equals grey - and so the darkness of evening merges with the snow to make the winter road visible.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

26

‘I have seen the Lord.’ John 20:18 (ESV)

‘The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save.’ Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)

‘Perhaps it is better to suffer and know the truth than to be happy in a delusion.’

Fyodor Dostoevsky

‘Solitude with God repairs the damage done by the fret and noise and clamour of the world.’ **Oswald Chambers**

‘Now everything lay in the past, in memory and in photographs. Memory withers away, goes to pieces, but the photographs remain. They stay in their albums: school, military, wedding. And the albums sit in his sideboard, meekly and obediently.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

‘It was dark outside, and the alarm clock ticked soothingly in Sergeyich's ears.

That was the ticking of time. Soon March would come, pushing winter back. Puddles of melted snow would sparkle in the sun. And the first bees would set out on reconnaissance, though the vegetation was just beginning to hatch and braid itself over the black earth, so as to warm and decorate it as it awoke from the cold. The bees would not fly far - just long enough to limber up and to refresh their sense of the land.’

Andrey Kurkov

27

‘As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ John 20:21 (ESV)

‘Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’ Revelation 19:10 (ESV)

‘We will inevitably imitate something. But we can exercise intentionality and awareness about what we choose to imitate. We don’t have to be tossed about by what the mass media offers us or by what our peer group tells us.’ **Cynthia L. Haven**

‘The air will be filled with a sweet and pleasing, close and peaceful buzzing - a buzzing that makes every bee-lover's world feel smaller, cosier, more homelike. And then the distant shots and explosions will not seem so important; after all, a person can get used to anything. The important thing will be spring, and the fact that nature is filling up with life - with its sounds and its smells, its wings and winglets.’ **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

28

‘Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind.’ Job 40:6 (ESV)

‘Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts.’ Haggai 2:4 (ESV)

‘If your heart does not beat with love, your religion falls to the ground like a withered leaf in autumn.’ **Charles Spurgeon**

‘My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice; these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts far better than words; I know it by experience.’ **St. Therese of Lisieux**

‘While eating, he kept glancing at the alarm clock. It now occupied a place of honour - in the middle of the table, right beside the candle. Its soothing tick-tock flowed into the silence of Sergeyich's home. This silence was like a huge bottle of thick glass; it held many things, and if you brought your ear up to its mouth, you could distinguish these near-sounds, but just barely, with great difficulty.’ **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

29

‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ John 20:29 (ESV)

‘I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord, and I will be the glory in her midst.’ Zechariah 2:5 (ESV)

‘The less we have, the more we give. Seems absurd, but it’s the logic of love.’

Mother Teresa

‘God will meet you where you are in order to take you where he wants you to go.’

Tony Evans

‘If ever you lose the rhythm of life, it can take days, even weeks for it to knock you back into your usual routine.’ **Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov**

‘Is sleeping on beehives really good for your health?’ the soldier asked, changing the subject.

‘You bet it is!’ Sergeyich assured him. ‘I don't know how many of my own problems I've cured with the bees' help... I sleep on the hives in the summertime. The trembling's good for the nerves- makes you young again.’ **Andrey Kurkov**

30

‘He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more.’ Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.’ Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)

‘How much happier you would be, how much more of you there would be, if the hammer of a higher God could smash your small cosmos, scattering the stars like spangles, and leave you in the open, free like other men to look up as well as down.’ **G. K. Chesterton**

‘When he drove his green Lada out into the yard, drops of rain began to fall. Sergeyich threw a glance up at the sky, and rain hit him straight in his open eyes. The drops had also fallen on his lips and tongue, and it seemed to him that they were salty. It was as if these were heavenly tears instead of rain - as if the sky were crying for him, for Sergeyich, because it too did not know whether he would ever return. And if he did, whenever that might be, would he find everything as he had left it?’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

31

‘To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.’ Revelation 21:6 (ESV)

‘Surely, I am coming soon. Amen. Come Lord Jesus!’ Revelation 22:20 (ESV)

‘And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.’ Job 42:12 (ESV)

‘But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire.’ Malachi 3:2 (ESV)

‘But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.’ Malachi 4:2 (ESV)

‘To the sound of the raindrops, Sergeyich examined his native walls, trees and fences, his little world, in which he had lived through all his troubles and problems, day after day, night after night. It - the trees, the gates, the doors and the windows - had up to this point protected him like a fortress, like a bulletproof vest. And all these years he had thought the opposite: that he was protecting his home, his land, his world. No, he had been wrong. Only now, when it was time to leave, did he realise it.’

Grey Bees - Andrey Kurkov

