



Reading for the Love of God

With Jessica Hooten Wilson

Webinar Show Notes

- A. Synopsis:** In *Reading for the Love of God*, award-winning author Jessica Hooten Wilson approaches reading as not just a personal hobby or a pleasurable indulgence but a spiritual practice that deepens our faith and then shows readers how to reap the spiritual benefits of reading. She argues that the simple act of reading can help us learn to pray well, love our neighbor, be contemplative, practice humility, and disentangle ourselves from contemporary idols.
- B. Personal Announcements:**
- In September 2023, she will release the edited volume *The Liberating Arts*
 - In January 2024, she will publish *The Making of Flannery O'Connor's Unfinished Novel*
- C. Main Goals:**
- Reading for the literal sense
 - Reading for the spiritual sense
 - Reading like Julian of Norwich
- D. Q & A to follow**



TONIGHT'S OUTLINE

- I. Four Sense of Scripture
 - a. literal sense: this is what it is
 - b. allegorical (spiritual sense): this is what it means
 - c. moral/tropological (spiritual sense): this is how now to live
 - d. anagogical (spiritual sense): this is how to die
- II. Matthew 13: Parable of the Sower
 - a. literal reading - the story and its elements
 - b. allegorical reading - Jesus teaching disciples how to read
 - c. anagogical reading - the eschatological level
 - d. moral reading - before the end of time, how now shall we live?
- III. Julian of Norwich as example of tropological reading: our lives as interpretations of the text
 - a. Revelation of Divine Love - read as part of a whole (community), life as performative witness, embody a living interpretation
 - b. Love as Meaning - dialogue with the text

Q & A

Some questions that were answered in the webinar

- How as parents do we sit with a text before asking the moral question, how now shall I live?
- How do you apply the four sense reading on a practical level in a classroom?
- What booklist would you recommend to begin a course of spiritual reading?
- Can you apply the practice of spiritual reading to any text?
- What translation do you recommend for reading Julian of Norwich?
- When reading with children, should teachers prompt a discussion on the moral reading of the text?



Encore Resources

I. You can find Jessica Hooten Wilson at:

- A. [Personal Website](#)
- B. [Newsletter](#)
- C. [YouTube Channel](#)
- D. [The Scandal of Reading Podcast](#)
- E. [Twitter](#)
- F. By email: jessica.hootenwilson@pepperdine.edu

II. Jessica's Resources

- A. [Books](#)
- B. [Articles & Essays](#)
- C. [Talks & Lectures](#)
- D. [Podcast & Radio Interviews](#)
- E. [The Scandal of Reading Podcast](#)

III. Recommended Reading:

- A. [Reading for the Love of God](#) by Jessica Hooten Wilson
- B. [Julian of Norwich, Paraclete edition](#) by Father John Julian
- C. [The Scandal of Holiness](#) by Jessica Hooten Wilson
- D. [Giving the Devil His Due](#) by Jessica Hooten Wilson
- E. [Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom](#) by David W. Blight

IV. Related Resources:

- A. ClassicalU Podcast: [Episode 02: Interview with Christine Perrin](#)
- B. [Scholé Academy Lecture Hall with Jessica Hooten Wilson](#)
- C. [A CiRCE Guide to Reading](#) by Andrea Lipinski and David Kern