

Loving God by Embracing Mystery – April 9th

STORY – Camino 800km, 32 nights, start in France across from east to west.

August 31st, 2017 we walked the 800km trek from France to the Western coast of Spain, known as the “Camino De Santiago”, a 1st century pilgrimage that would see 278, 232 walk it that same year.

Our intention was do the pilgrimage not just for the adventure, but also to go ‘off-line’ from our city lives and be open for whatever happens.

We thought we were ‘doing the Camino’, but it was in fact doing us. The performance junkies pushed too hard and got significantly injured, those who were oblivious and selfish were educated by 4 weeks of multi-cultural Hostel living. The competent ‘independents’ got lost or injured and had to receive help, and those more fragile had to find resilience they never knew they had. It was the mother of all bait-and-switches and we came home better for it.

We did this journey, as we also wanted to go deeper with God. We experienced God as we engaged with the;
SACRED SYMBOLS – churches, symbolic buildings/art, Massive incense burners swinging through the air that were surprisingly powerful

GODS NATURE - incredible mountain tops, field of sunflowers or corn. Kms of dry plains or lush vineyards

HIS INCARNATION IN OTHERS - experienced God as we hung out with people it was the Emmanuel experience – GOD WITH US

POWER OF SABBATH – The power of disconnect, go ‘offline’

But we also encountered more Mystical experiences;

- **divine encounters** where I sensed His presence – diff churches
- **strong awareness of His hand, His purposes** and how everything was connected and an inner knowing that he was at work and not to worry. We had to find places to stay and saw God's fingerprints on the favour we had
- **Clear direction/conversation with God**, encounter with Him and an awareness of Gods direction in and through my inner world

When I say Mystical, what does that mean? Dictionary.com “a person who claims to attain, or believes in the possibility of attaining, insight into mysteries transcending ordinary human knowledge, as by direct communication with the divine or immediate intuition in a state of spiritual ecstasy.

“If you have had direct experience of God or Divinity, whether through your intuition or direct awareness, then you are a mystic.” Jill Lowry

What are the markers of a Mystic?

1st Marker / They have EXPERIENCES / ENCOUNTERS

They believe truth, direct knowledge and ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience. Some would say IN and BY His presence.

William James popular mystic says it's a 'distinctive experience, comparable to sensory experiences'.

So if Jesus was a Mystic – did we see him have ENCOUNTERS?

His encounter (Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah on the mountain, he's transfigured then we hear 'this is my Son with whom I'm well pleased' Matt 17

Matt 17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

2nd Marker/ LIVE WITH AWARENESS –

AWARENESS/CONSCIOUSNESS THAT EVERYTHING IS MEANINGFUL AND INTERCONNECTED

Mystics understand that there is a plan behind every action and therefore **trust that every action has purpose**. They believe the world is **expansive** and **magical** yet also **intricately** and **undoubtedly connected**. – therefore don't worry about the future.

Mystics are great at connecting the dots and seeing patterns

Trust that every action has a purpose and is interconnected with divine leadings (so no need to worry)

So if Jesus was a Mystic – where can we see AWARENESS? John

5:17- "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."

Luke 19:30 *Go to the village ahead as you get there you will find a donkey tie there that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here and if anyone asks say the Lord needs it*

Matt 6:34 – *“Consider the lillie’s of the field, they don’t labour or toil yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are... so don’t worry about about what you’ll wear etc*

Luke 9:4 – *‘What does he say to his disciples – take nothing for the journey and leave when you want to leave’*

3rd Marker/ LIVE BY THE VOICE/COUNCIL OF GOD

Mystics

lean back into a life where they are lead by the direct voice of God

##So if Jesus was a Mystic – where can we see him living by God’s voice

John 12:49 *“For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.”*

John 5:19 *So Jesus replied, Truly, truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless he see’s the Father doing it. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does. The Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does*

Matt 4:4 *But Jesus answered, quoting Deuteronomy "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds*

from the mouth of God.” The words comes/proceeds implies the continual word

Even the Apostles lived by the Council of the Holy Spirit

*“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: “***ACTS 15:28**

Me – Board of Streets of Freedom

US - Running a church – our mandate has been to create opportunities for people to learn how to hear from God’s voice. For them to be fully independent, living by government of Jesus

STARTED - SOAKING AT ENCORE – big decisions – change names, even asking God a joke who’s there – I AM. Government & Intimacy

STORIES OF MY MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES

ME – wash my hands in the pool

Cruz de Ferro – it’s not up to you

CAMINO – all well and good engaging with 1st century platforms to encounter God

HOWEVER we live in 2017...

MODERN DAY MYSTIC – segue to Author Jill Lowry’s thoughts

“A modern day mystic has to communicate his or her mystical experiences through present day culture, religion and technology...

Never losing sight of the truth which is very ancient, but ever experienced anew.” Jill Lowry

IS THERE ONLY ONE QUALIFIER TO BEING A MYSTIC – BE OK WITH UNCERTAINTY AND NOT BE GOVERNED BY FEAR AND EGO – choose to not let fear of the unknown govern you, or the fear of looking stupid stop you engaging with the mystery of God.

MODERN DAY MYSTIC -STEVE AND MOTORBIKE PLUS online opportunities with podcasts/music/visual videos and beauty.

HARDEST THING - BIGGEST CHALLENGER FOR THE MODERN MYSTIC
- SCREENS!

CHOOSING TO BE PRESENT. Allow yourself to have gaps and be bored. Be ok with Silence. Be ok to be still and sit

IDEAS -HOW CAN YOU CREATE PLATFORMS THAT YOU CAN ENGAGE WITH TO GROW YOUR INNER MYSTIC!

Our Interactive nights Jesus chair, walk the labyrinth or school yard, surrender kneeling stations, light a candle for what breaks your heart, put on a robe (joseph robe or a prodigal son robe) write a letter to yourself from God etc etc ... take a gem out of the bucket and see what God says ...Jerico/Joshua walk with majestic music

FINISH

Finish

Ask God to show you a picture of.....?

Talk them through “be open..” “get past this is just my mind” “follow the rabbit down the hole”

Write it down first

Then Ask if anyone wants to share – doesn’t have to be mind-blowing