

Comedy

Matthew 19:16-24, Matthew 23:23-24



Joshua Givens : Humor in the Bible

<http://voices.yahoo.com/humor-bible-2300046.html>

Chris Bliss: Comedy is translation

(TED talks -cc)

http://www.ted.com/talks/chris_bliss_comedy_is_translation.html

2012 16 min

“Every act of communication is an act of translation”

Comedy gives us “a different way of seeing and ultimately being in the world.”

“Comedy comes along with the same areas where our defenses are the strongest... by approaching them through humor... and the alchemy of laughter turns our walls into windows revealing a fresh and unexpected point of view.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ◆ What caught your imagination in this TED talk?
- ◆ What were your questions and feelings as you listened?
- ◆ Do you connect God and faith with comedy?
- ◆ Reflect on the quotations. What walls need to be turned into windows?
- ◆ How might the reflection ‘humor in the Bible’ illuminate the potential for comedy to be sacred space for you?
- ◆ How does your church receive ‘the fool’ who speaks truth into our illusion through comedy?

Wikipedia – Sacred

The early Protestant Reformers, who were often scholars of Ancient Greek and also borrowed from Jewish scholarship, recognized that holiness is an attribute of God, and holiness is always part of the presence of God. Yet they also recognized that "practical holiness" was the evidence of the presence of God in the converted believer.

Martin Luther viewed God's grace (and therefore God's holiness), as an invasion of the life. Actions that demonstrated holiness would spring up, not premeditated, as the believer focused more and more on his or her relationship with Christ. This was the life of faith, according to Luther; a life in which one recognizes that the sin inherent in human nature never departs, yet Grace invades each human spirit and draws each person after Christ... Calvin, on the other hand, formulated a practical system of holiness that even tied in with culture and social justice... <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred>

Babylon English Dictionary – Sacred
holy, worthy of reverence; sanctified, consecrated; pertaining to religion



Merriam-Webster Dictionary online
Definition of Sacred

1. a : dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of a deity ...
b : devoted exclusively to one service or use ...
2. a : worthy of religious veneration : holy
b : entitled to reverence and respect
3. of or relating to religion : not secular or profane ...
4. archaic : accursed
5. a : unassailable, inviolable
b : highly valued and important ...

Definition of HOLY

- 1: exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness
- 2: divine ...
- 3: devoted entirely to the deity or the work of the deity ...
- 4: having a divine quality ...
- 5: used as an intensive ...

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Heart: <http://www.scripturepics.org/>

One Way: <http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=4419&picture=one-way&large=1>



TOWARD DARING DISCIPLESHIP

October 2013

Small group

discussion starters

*to help with reflection upon
The Sacred.*

The purposes and the presence of God are written in numerous places.

Here are a few resources that may be helpful for small groups - with access to the internet - that are interested in engaging theologically on biology, love, the universe and comedy.



The desk of
Lorna MacQueen

October 2013

BIOLOGY

Genesis Chapter 1 (MSG)



**Janine Benyus -
Biomimicry
(TED talks - creative
commons)**

12 sustainable design ideas from nature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n77BfxnVlyc>

2007 24 minutes

Biomimicry in Action

<http://biomimicry.net/inspiring/videos/>

2009 17 minutes

(use one of the above videos)

"These organisms have figured out the way to do the things they need to do while taking care of the place that will take care of their offspring" *12 sustainable design ideas from nature*

"Life creates conditions conducive for life" *12 sustainable design ideas from nature and biomimicry in action*

"How can we live here gracefully over the long haul?" *Biomimicry in Action*

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ◆ What caught your imagination in this TED talk?
- ◆ What were you feeling as you listened and watched? Why?
- ◆ What were your questions?
- ◆ Where was God present in this presentation?
- ◆ Discuss the above film quotes.
- ◆ Where is God present in biology and where is God speaking in the intricacy of creation?
- ◆ Where is the sacred?

The resilience of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Andrew Solomon:

Love, no matter what (TED talks -cc)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_solomon_love_no_matter_what.html?](http://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_solomon_love_no_matter_what.html?fb_ref=talk)

[fb_ref=talk](#)

2013 24 min

"It is our differences and our identification of difference that unite us."

"How much love there can be even when everything appears to be going wrong."

"I don't accept subtractive models of love, only additive ones."

"In the same way we need species diversity to ensure that the planet can go on, so we need this diversity of affection and family in order to strengthen the ecosphere of kindness."

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ◆ What caught your imagination in this TED talk?
- ◆ What were you feeling as you listened and watched? Why?
- ◆ What were your questions?
- ◆ Where was God present?
- ◆ How is the sacred present in these experiences and voices?
- ◆ Reflect on the quotations.
- ◆ How might this experience and voice inform our understanding of love, acceptance and inclusivity in our church communities? How might we act more in line with that understanding?



THE UNIVERSE

PSALM 8 (THE INCLUSIVE BIBLE)



Carolyn Porco: This is Saturn

(TED talks -cc)

http://www.ted.com/playlists/16/way_way_out_there.html

2007 17 minutes

"The journey back to Saturn is really a part of a metaphor for a much larger human voyage to understand the interconnectedness of everything around us and also how humans fit into the picture."

"If we could determine that Genesis has happened not once but twice in our solar system, this means it has occurred a staggering number of times throughout the universe and its history."

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ◆ What caught your imagination in this TED talk?
- ◆ What were you feeling as you listened and watched? Why?
- ◆ What were your questions?
- ◆ Where was God present? Where is the sacred?
- ◆ Reflect on the quotations, and the Psalm.
- ◆ How does your faith respond to the vastness and mystery of the universe? How is it challenged and how is it comforted?