

Take-Home: Session 1, The Hiding God

WHAT WE FOUND

The hiddenness of God is not a modern discovery made against the Bible. It is a confession the Bible made first. Isaiah calls the God of Israel a God who hides himself, and in the same breath calls him Savior. The psalms pray the complaint; Job speaks it; and when Moses asks for the direct sight of God's face, God refuses him, for his protection, not out of coldness. And through all of it runs a covenant promise: not spectacle, not proof, but the whole heart, a seeking that God's own grace makes possible. God, on Scripture's account, is hidden from spectators and found by seekers.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH: ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

In his *Confessions* (X.27), St. Augustine confesses that he had searched for God everywhere except the one place God was waiting: within him. God was with him; it was Augustine who was not with God.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH: ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas teaches (*Summa Theologiae* I, q. 2, a. 1) that God's existence is self-evident in itself but not to us, because we do not see God's essence. Our minds travel to God from his effects: we might say, as from a work of art back to the artist.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH: ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

The *Spiritual Canticle* opens with the soul's cry: where have you hidden, Beloved? Even the greatest mystics began in hiddenness. St. John teaches, in substance, that the Beloved is not absent but hidden within the soul itself, and that his hiddenness sets the soul searching.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Each day this week, say one honest sentence to God, out loud or written. If you are unsure he is there, honesty still counts: even, if you are there, I want to know, is a prayer this week's texts would recognize.
- Once this week, reread Psalm 13 slowly and notice where it ends compared to where it begins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you." Jeremiah 29:13-14 (RSV2CE)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Psalm 27, slowly, once. Notice what the psalmist says his heart is doing.

CATECHISM REFERENCES

CCC 30; 35 to 37; 2566 to 2567.

MY GUESS: SEAL IT TONIGHT

In one honest sentence: what would it take for you to believe? (If you already believe: what did it actually take?)

*Fold this sheet along the box, seal it, write your name on the outside, and bring it back every week.
You will be told when it opens.*