

Dinner Dialogue #3

Conversations for February 1, 7, 9, 2023.

The Comforting Whirlwind, God, Job, and the Scale of Creation

Chapter 3

by Bill McKibben

Remember there is no facilitator at your table. Learning from each other, the Augustinian way, is our model for dialogue, so invite the wisdom of all at the table.

1. Go around the table and introduce yourself to each other by name and finish the sentence:
“I am here tonight after three weeks of classes feeling _____. This chapter on sustainability, faith and learning, has invited me to _____.
2. Begin by taking your insights/challenges to delve deeper into the reading.
3. Job and God are in dialogue. God’s speech is a series of questions designed to make Job feel small and dependent. Job’s response to God is, “I will be quiet, comforted that I know I am dust”. Job is speechless and has no idea how to answer the questions. God’s image is one of power and control however, McKibben states that today humans are not silent, speechless, and mute and are altering the global natural world, by human decisions. “We are challenging God’s control over creation in deliberate as well as inadvertent ways”. “We are making the world a place where the voice of God is muffled.” (pp 55-63).
What do you think of McKibben’s conclusions?
4. "Overcoming the orthodoxy that places us at the center is, I think, necessary not only for our individual souls, but also for the collective future. As I have tried to show, our faith, like the planet, is incompatible over the long run with any culture that puts people forever at its core and makes their material satisfaction its only goal." McKibben. pg 66.
Who are we? Who is God? What is the dialogue today?
5. Explore how your academic learning, and your Faith guide the way you/we live in a complex world committed to sustainability.
6. McKibben asks: “What is simple elegance?” (p. 68.) How do we use this to guide us as individuals, a university and a world?

Please note: Bill McKibben will be on our campus for the
Second Annual Anti-Poverty Symposium

"Unitas in Action: Fighting Poverty and Living Sustainably" on April 18, Connelly Center

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/law/about/news-events/events/2023/1110.html>