

Unexpected Places

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

1. The Author opens her article by sharing her experience with finding spiritual lessons from literature. Which example most resonated with you? Have you gained a spiritual lesson from a favorite work of fiction?
2. The process of change includes an external component, a mechanism by which the external information intrudes up our interior space, and a malleable heart willing to be moved. What does this process look like when you are experiencing change? Which part is the hardest for you?
3. There are many forms of external components that can bring about a change of heart, we have listed: literature, poetry, scripture, art, music, nature. Which external components tend to affect you the most? Is there a something missing from the list? What secular sources have you found spiritual value in?
4. Have you experienced other secular sources that promoted ideas that went “against” God? Was there be any value to these works too?
5. Do you believe that secular encounters have the ability to provide spiritual insight enough to experience a change of heart?
6. How can you cultivate a spirit for learning and keep a soft heart, able to be shaped? What can you do today to choose to keep an agile heart?
7. Does God put ideas into our hearts? There is a balance to be struck here of compulsively attaching meaning to any and every event in our lives and running the risk of denying God's ever-present help in time of need. Perhaps we can sidestep exactitude by admitting that we just don't know. We can find rest in this place of intellectual humility. What does this balance look like in your life?
8. How can you open your eyes and heart to finding Jesus in unexpected places?
9. By paying attention, have you found Jesus in an expected place? What was this experience like?