

Steek êrens in jou woonplek 'n kers aan terwyl jy lees.

Tema: Geloof of nie geloof? Wat is Jesus Christus vir my?

Skriflesing: Lukas 12:49-59

Broodjies vir die pad

"Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty."

— Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection*

"There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true."

— Soren Kierkegaard

"If we submit everything to reason our religion will be left with nothing mysterious or supernatural. If we offend the principles of reason our religion will be absurd and ridiculous . . . There are two equally dangerous extremes: to exclude reason, to admit nothing but reason."

— Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

"Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it."

— Andre Gide

"You have as much laughter as you have faith."

— Martin Luther

"To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless."

— G.K. Chesterton

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

"My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it Himself."

— C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

"Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be reached by the caravan of thinking."

— Kahlil Gibran

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us something is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit."

— E.E. Cummings

"Reason is in fact the path to faith, and faith takes over when reason can say no more."

— Thomas Merton

Familiebesoek

Familiebesoek begin altyd by 'n hek

Aanvanklik was dit die plaashekkie of 'n afgesproke voorafbepaalde plekkie waar ons mekaar in trane van vreugde om die hals kon val en kuiertjies inhaal.

Toe word dit oprithekke van pragstadshuise waarheen ons nes plaas- en stadsmuise in die somermaande sou stroom tog was ons saam, pagters van 'n agternaam

Helaas staan ek hier by die wegvliegplek se outomatiese familieterugbringhek.

Op hierdie blink teëls en voor vreemde mense kan ons ooms weer groet en nuwe niggies ontmoet tot volgende week, as hulle weer vertrek

Paul Maritz

Miracle

A CANCER INEXPLICABLY CURED. A voice in a dream. A statue that weeps. A miracle is an event that strengthens faith. It is possible to look at most miracles and find a rational explanation in terms of natural cause and effect. It is possible to look at Rembrandt's Supper at Emmaus and find a rational explanation in terms of paint and canvas. Faith in God is less apt to proceed from miracles than miracles from faith in God.

— Frederick Buechner, Originally published in *Beyond Words*

"Books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry. When we consider a book, we mustn't ask ourselves what it says but what it means..."

— Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

"To hold our tongues when everyone is gossiping, to smile without hostility at people and institutions, to compensate for the shortage of love in the world with more love in small, private matters; to be more faithful in our work, to show greater patience, to forgo the cheap revenge obtainable from mockery and criticism: all these are things we can do."

— Hermann Hesse

"I want neither a terrorist spirituality that keeps me in a perpetual state of fright about being in right relationship with my heavenly Father nor a sappy spirituality that portrays God as such a benign teddy bear that there is no aberrant behavior or desire of mine that he will not condone. I want a relationship with the Abba of Jesus, who is infinitely compassionate with my brokenness and at the same time an awesome, incomprehensible, and unwieldy Mystery."

— Brennan Manning

“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Let him who is not in community beware of being alone... Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*

“We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

“Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.”

— Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry: Writings on Faith and Fiction*

“God turns you from one feeling to another and teaches by means of opposites so that you will have two wings to fly, not one”

— Rumi, *The Essential Rumi*

“Wait on the Lord” is a constant refrain in the Psalms, and it is a necessary word, for God often keeps us waiting. He is not in such a hurry as we are, and it is not his way to give more light on the future than we need for action in the present, or to guide us more than one step at a time. When in doubt, do nothing, but continue to wait on God. When action is needed, light will come.”

— J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

“To have faith requires courage, the ability to take a risk, the readiness even to accept pain and disappointment. Whoever insists on safety and security as primary conditions of life cannot have faith; whoever shuts himself off in a system of defense, where distance and possession are his means of security, makes himself a prisoner. To be loved, and to love, need courage, the courage to judge certain values as of ultimate concern—and to take the jump and to stake everything on these values.”

— Erich Fromm, *The Art of Loving*

“Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.”

— Thomas Aquinas

“Faith is not a question of the existence or non-existence of God. It is believing that love without reward is valuable.”

— Emmanuel Levinas

“Care more for a grain of faith than a ton of excitement.”

— Charles Spurgeon

Brood vir die pad

Só kan ateïste en gelowiges sinvol praat

Wilhelm Jordaan

Baie mense, ook predikante en teoloë, verloor soms hul geloof in die bestaan van “God” – as ’n oombliklike, spontane soort insig of ná ’n lang worsteling. (Dit is nou afgesien van diegene wat nog nooit gelowig was nie.)

Dit op sigself is nie ongewoon nie en word gewoonlik as ’n private saak beskou. Maar wanneer dit bekend word, is daar beroeringe, veral as die “afvalliges” gesiene mense is.

Eensyds kry dié wat hul geloof verloor, die lof van mense wat hulself ateïste noem; dat die afvalliges nou die lig gesien het en bevry is van die hersenskim van godsgelowigheid; óók van hul intellektuele armoede en wetenskapontkenning. En nou is hulle gereed om radikale humanisme te omhels, want verhewe menslike waardes is die enigste en finale meetsnoer.

Andersyds is daar in sekere godsdienkskringe ontsteltenis en baie vrae – ook beledigings in die trant van “Godsverraad”, selfvoldaanheid en morele bankrotenskap. Die vraag is of die mense wat aan die debatte hieromheen deelneem ’n spesiale soort verantwoordelikheid het. Ek reken só:

Ietwat moedswillig wil ek sê sommige ateïste hanteer die debat baie soos wat sommige oudrokers met die rookgewoonte doen! Jare lank het hulle met oortuigde genot gerook, maar toe kry hulle die lig en die insig: Rook is gevaarlik. Dán gee hulle hulle oor aan ’n (sending!)jwyer om dié laakbare gewoonte te bestry. Hulle is nou vry van die slegte gewoonte en het geen geduld met of begrip vir die armsalige rokers nie.

Wat verwag ’n mens dan van ateïste? Op sy minste die erkenning dat ’n religieuse impuls iets eg menslik kan wees en as sodanig respek verdien, al is dit so dat godsdien aantoonbaar kru, skadelik, mensonterend en selfs moorddadig kan wees.

En moenie wesenlik vyandige fundamentalistiese geloofsuitings as die maatstaf vir alle soorte geloof neem nie. Gee erkenning aan en verreken eietydse, vernuwende, kritiese geloofsopvattinge. Ook dat kerkgeskiedenis en kerkdebatte nie noodwendig gelyk is aan geloof in God nie.

Baie gelowiges aanvaar die evolusieleer en glo die wetenskap sal bewyse verskaf oor hoe lewe evolusionêr deur natuurlike seleksie ontwikkel het – miskien uit iets soos die ateïs Richard Dawkins se “primeval soup”. Dit is verruklike kennis. En wanneer jy bely “God” bestaan, kies jy byvoorbeeld nie die maklike “God of the gaps”-uitweg dat God deur natuurlike seleksie geskep het nie. Want dít wéét jy nie.

Verwag ateïste enigiets van gelowiges, afgesien van ’n “beking” tot ateïsme? Vir sover ’n ateïs belangstel in gesprek met gelowiges, is dit ’n redelike verwagting dat ’n mens noukeurig en eerbiedig sal luister na waarom ’n ateïs in die afwesigheid van ’n “bonatuurlike agent” (soos “God”) glo. En jy eis nie ’n wetenskaplike bewys daarvoor nie, net so min as wat jy as gelowige ’n bewys vir God se bestaan hoef te verskaf.

Sulke verwagtinge is iets gans anders as om in debatte te verval wat gekenmerk word deur ongenueanseerde én beledigende “is/is-nie”-stellings.

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