

BEYOND BIOGRAPHY

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“She gave herself to Christ and through him to her neighbor. This was the end of her biography and the beginning of her life.”

These words, written by Malcolm Muggeridge concerning the life of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, have haunted me ever since I read them, ironically, in his short biography of her.

I love biographies. I love delving deeply into the lives of people who interest me, seeing what made them tick and being both shocked and reassured by their limitations and humanity.

resolutely gave it up, laid it down to the point of an unjust death. He did this to secure the life that is truly life for an undeserving people.

His life was completely hidden in the gaze of the Father, His mouth spoke the words the Father initiated, He sought the Father’s will, even to His own discomfort unto death. His life was utterly beyond biography. He was constantly bringing attention to the goodness of God and the sliver of it he saw in the strangest places, like in the homeless, the sick, the birds and the lilies! He calls us to live in the same manner, pouring ourselves into the people and places around us while simultaneously being held and contained in the hands of our Father.

Life in the body of Christ is a continual reminder of the people God has placed around us and the places that God has placed us within. We are invited to stop being so obsessed with our own stories and begin to listen to



What haunts me about those words, “the end of her biography and the beginning of her life,” is that the very thing that made Mother Teresa’s life so worthy of biography is that she stopped caring about her biography. The reason we seek to remember her life is that she lost her self and her story in the people and places around her.

According to the Scriptures, life begins when our obsession with our own biography ends. Christ himself explained this to his disciples, saying, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (**Matthew 10:39**).

These are not philosophic musings from a man who lived in a bubble, these are the words of God who became man and came to earth to live the very statement. He did not merely lose His life, He willingly,

the stories of those around us. We are invited to take our gaze off of ourselves and onto the God who has placed us into His most epic story!

In **Philippians 4:8-9**, Paul encourages the body of Christ to life one another up by sharing moments and experiences that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. In the midst of a broken world and in our broken lives, Paul reminds us that our gaze is to be set on Christ and His beams of goodness into our brokenness.

Moving forward for these newsletters, we will be alternating weeks between a written devotional and an interview with a woman at Redeemer who will be inviting us into her story and perspective! By sharing what she sees that is in alignment with Philippians 4:8-9, we will be invited to set our gaze back onto Christ!