

## **Telling it Slant – David Runcorn 3 July 2025: Chat record showing responses from groups...**

### **Responses from Groups - Part 1**

From Marguerite

So helpful to share and listen in the small group ... thank you.

From Annabel Barber's iPad

If the spiritual life is a journey, what is the destination?

From David Durston

The idea of suggesting is significant - it is tentative, but offers a possible direction

From Karen Parr

We all find value in containing the unknown

From Alison Blenkinsop

Trust the catcher (Henri Nouwen)

From Peter Duncan

The resistance to mystery and unknowing in western culture.

From Dr Susie Lapwood

Our group put stuff in the chat before rejoining... is it visible to anyone?!

From Victor

Group 3 = Listening instead of explaining, silence, living with the question

From Janet Bone

Is there an english version of the Hebrew Scriptures which does faithfully represent the Hebrew?

From Alison Blenkinsop

Fear and anger can make us desperate for certainty

From Pauline Jones

for our group "Heresy is explanation" and "accompaniment is play" resonated in our group

From Barbara Bird

How can we work and be present in the silence as well as guiding our directees in that silence.

From jane thompson

Agree with what has been said and acknowledge that there is mystery. We don't have all the answers but we are waiting on God. Group 27

From deborah

Allowing silence to do the work as we hold space, sacred space.

From Peter Rainford - Rotherham

Two words from our group - wondering and weaning. But do we need to explain them?

From Marc

We talked around the whirl that a person can bring to SD session and discussed how this made us feel - a bit lost sometimes.

From Barbara Bird

Is the mystery only evident in the silence?

From Eileen O.

Replying to "If the spiritual life is a journey, what is the de...":

Perhaps the way is the destination with Jesus as the Way

From iPhone

We had a helpful suggestion about praying for the Lord to lead us into His way of unknowing

From Barbara Bird

How does a hidden God make himself known?

From Chris

How do you spell 'Mashal'

From Bronwen Pearson

a moment by moment discernment about the listening interventions used. Useful to be reminded the heresy of explanation is a constant temptation.

From Jan Betts

listening allows the pace of the inner journey to be controlled by the directee

From Tony Ward

In parallel with the term "heresy" we also explored the idea of the blasphemy of explanation, and the temptation to explain. Group 11

From Wyn Beynon

In the south east of England a parable is pronounced "powerball"... glottal stopping! I used to throw soft balls at the congregation, hope someone catches it and say "the kingdom is like mustard seed... catch that... Curved balls - power balls... parabolas!

From Sarah Burrow

Similarly in music - the silence is all important

From Victor

In Hebrew, mashal (משל) primarily means "proverb," "parable," or "saying"

From Alison Blenkinsop

Silence is important in music, but not often allowed in our relentless TV etc

From Lissy Clarke

I find for some who struggle to sit with silence themselves that helping them get into their bodies for an opening stilling can help

From Ruth

are silences and words like the light and the shadows?

From Robin Figg

Jesus often responded to a question with a question. Is this a variation on 'telling it slant'?

From Pauline Shepherd

we talked about making them feel safe in the session with us as directors to give confidence to share and not know and to enlarge vision of God and to learn to feel safe with him

From Mike Fegredo

A parable

## **Responses from Groups part 2**

From Gail Bourne

John O'Donohue spoke eloquently about the value of twilight for healing and growth and Thomas Moore mentions the need for times of withdrawing to reflect using darker, more shaded areas of a renaissance garden (Saturn's Bower) as a physical expression of what was happening spiritually.

From Anne de Reybekill

'Where is God in this?' is an invitation into the darkness...

From Jane Thompson

We grow in the darkness group 27

From Barbara Bird

Thank you for the book suggestion Learning to walk in the dark. I have ordered it already!!

From Karen Parr

A couple of key points: when we go to meet with a directee, we don't go with any expectations on us but we do go with expectancy.

From Wyn Beynon

Are men more afraid of the dark than women? (asked by a man!)

From Victor

Group 3 - feeling relaxed by the freedom of not needing to know or meet expectations

From David Durston

There has been a lot of silence in our group. Perhaps that reflects our desire not to jump to superficial conclusions but to stay with our uncertainty and struggle to understand,

From Alison Blenkinsop  
3 lost parables: the lost coin did nothing to be found but it was found, like our family members who don't go to church any more.

From Ruth  
no Wyn - we are all

From Christine  
Where does intimacy with Jesus relate to God as unknowable, mysterious etc?

From Christine Brown  
Also the uncertainty of Holy Saturday

From Nigel Gibbons  
When its utterly dark to stay with that darkness and not to try to improve/change/minimise it, staying close to their experiencing of it, their painful words/images/feelings.

From Karen Parr  
Secondly, the darkness can be uncertainty but laced with expectancy-we cannot see but what might God do next?The 3rd week of the exercises is often a big time of growth in the darkness.

From Marguerite  
The evening has really helped give me a helpful perspective on where / how we meet others ... .in life and as accompaniers. To honour the mystery, challenge and questions in our lives.

From Gill Butterworth CJN  
'I will give you the treasures of darkness' from the Book of Job, I think

From David Frudd  
darkness can be a kind of kenosis?

From Ruth Crompton  
the womb is also a dark place but a great place of growth

From Gail Bourne  
We often need to explore where is the Presence in what seems on more surface terms like absence.

From Pam Reid  
The Divine Heart Of Darkness - Rev Catherine Bird

From Gail Bourne  
The Tenebrae service at Easter can be helpful for exploring spiritual tensions.

From Robin Figg  
Richard Rohr talks of the sequence/path/journey of: Order - Disorder - Reorder.

From Anne de Reybekill  
Please can you save all these chat comments for us to look at later?

From Chris Bryden  
See the poem by Teilhard de Chardin 'Patient Trust'

From Wyn Beynon  
Replying to "no Wyn - we are all": 😊

From Ruth  
labyrinth

From Gail Bourne  
Ricoeur also spoke about the journey through naivety to criticism to a post critical faith.