

VI Anointing of the Sick

29. Oil

Evans says, “We anoint not to cure, but to heal.” How would you describe the difference between “curing” and “healing”?

30. Healing

Does it take courage to be involved in the work of healing? If so, why? What else does it take to be part of “one of the most powerful and countercultural gifts the church has to offer the world”?

31. Evangelical Acedia

“Acedia” is defined as laziness or indifference in religious matters. Have you ever been through an experience or a series of experiences that have left you burnt out or bitter or, at the least, indifferent toward church? How did you respond? Have you recovered or are you still in that place in your feelings about church attendance and commitment?

32. This Whole Business with the Hearse

Barbara Brown Taylor writes about new life starting “in the dark.” If something new is happening in the church, what do you think that “new life” might look like? What do you think might be different about the Christian church twenty or thirty years from now?

33. Perfume

The author suggests that perhaps we should make the use of spikenard, the oil used by Mary to anoint Jesus, a part of our Eucharist. She says that perhaps, “with the help of the Spirit, the scent of it might trigger our collective memory.” What, specifically, would we be remembering?