

The Wisdom of Henri Nouwen
&
Vida Dutton Scudder

Nouwen on Solitude

Solitude is the place of purification and transformation, the place of the great struggle and the great encounter ... the place of our salvation.

Nouwen on Silence

First, silence makes us pilgrims. Secondly, silence guards the fire within. Thirdly, silence teaches us to speak.

Nouwen on Prayer

The prayer of the heart opens the eyes of the soul to the truth of ourselves as well as the truth of God. The prayer of the heart challenges us to hide absolutely nothing.

Scudder on Catastrophe

Jesus regarded catastrophe, no less than growth, as a normal and necessary element in human advance. He knew that violent disturbances were the condition and the preliminary of his coming. We cannot keep one factor in his teaching and reject another, dwell on the parable of the seed growing secretly, and forget the lightning flash.

Scudder on Sacramental Philosophy

... it is dangerous to avoid applying Christian principles to social and industrial life, by relegating them to a purely “spiritual” sphere. That time-honored evasion contradicts the whole sacramental philosophy. The very point of the great truths radiating from the Incarnation is that one harmonious law runs through all spheres of being

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Scudder on Capitalism

- We are not allowed to forget that our industrial system virtually says, Cursed are the poor, Cursed are the meek ... Christian manufacturers, instead of giving unto the last as unto the first, are likely to buy their labor as cheap as they can get it, and are often disposed to fight a living wage to the finish ... The permanent contradiction between Christian morals and world morals is a puzzle, and a permanent disgrace.