

Lesson 2

What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?

In this week's readings, I really enjoyed the text of Isaiah 1: 10-20. I find that the way Oswalt both "bridges context" and brings up points of "contemporary significance", really help me better understand what Isaiah is speaking to. In verses 10-20, Isaiah presents two ways that Israel could deal with their turning from God; a right way and the wrong way. What I especially appreciate is how applicable this is to the present-day church.

Too often, it's easy to fall into a pattern of complacency, thinking that by doing and looking the part of a 'good Christian', it is enough; yet here in Isaiah, we're reminded that the God sees right through these acts and in turn desires action as He would act. Oswalt puts it so clearly "How easy it is to think that when we go to church regularly, read the Bible, pray, tithe, and don't engage in substance abuse, God somehow owes us something. Moreover, how easy it is to think that when we have done all these things, God could hardly expect more from us.... In fact, it is easy for these behaviors to become substitutes for real biblical faith. Real biblical faith... lies in surrender and obedience as manifested in how we treat one another." (Oswalt, 2003, 80)