



A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent

Walter Brueggemann , Richard A. Floyd (Contributor)

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A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent Walter Brueggemann , Richard A. Floyd (Contributor) Lent recalls times of wilderness and wandering, from newly freed Hebrew slaves in exile to Jesus temptation in the desert. God has always called people out of their safe, walled cities into uncomfortable places, revealing paths they would never have chosen. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path one of humility, justice, and peace. Walter Brueggemann s thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace.

A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent Details

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Amy says

If you are used to Brueggemann, there are some days which will feel redundant. But others shook me. If you haven't read much Brueggemann, I think this is a short, but up front introduction. If I am honest, I reacted based on what I was ready to give, and clearly it isn't everything...yet.

Merritt Watson says

A thought filled walk with Jesus

A great book for Lent or any season of the year. Brueggemann gets to the heart of the message and meaning of Jesus.

Amy Jacobsen says

A great daily reading guide to help me remember, reflect, repent and renew faith in Jesus and his work on the cross. It is finished!

Ali says

I have mixed opinions about this book. Some parts I really liked, others I found harder to absorb or access. I'm also in a weird place right now so it's possible I just can't absorb it all right now.

Brueggeman guides the reader through Lent with short readings for each day, and the compiler adds a closing prayer. He draws on a wide variety of scriptures and focuses on the themes you might expect from him: God's kingdom versus the empire, and uniting liberals and conservatives in our mutual need for repentance and transformation.

Rosario B. says

Excellent devotional for Lent

Very fresh insights and beautiful writing. It is an excellent resource to accompany us through the Holy season of Lent.

David says

One of the better devotionals and readings for lent I've read. WB was concise, focused, and on theme through out the journey he created.

He helps the reader reflect on the themes of lent, the cross, Jesus' experience towards it, and the implications of it for life in our secular society. He also passionately calls the reader to think prophetically of American culture - specifically - the anxiety, fear, greed, and violence that he feels are rampant and consuming of both liberals and conservatives, Christians and non-Christians. These themes come up through out the book and cause the reader to pause and welcome this critique.

Too often it seems that Christians have their radars up for general morality (which is important) within the Scriptures, but fail to acknowledge that we have been sucked up into the the larger stories of anxiety, fear, greed, and violence - sometimes promoting them ourselves.

Michael Owen says

A timely if not prophetic Lenten devotional. I found each day personally challenging and instructive. I'm grateful for Walter Brueggeman's voice and leadership in this present age.

Robert D. Cornwall says

Walter Brueggemann is an imposing figure, who brings deep scholarship together with a deep spiritual vision. He speaks with a prophetic imagination (to make use of one of his book titles), inviting readers (and listeners) to recognize God's compassionate commitment to creation. Those of us who have had the opportunity to sit with him know the power of his vision.

In this small book, Brueggemann brings a daily word to the Lenten journey. The compiler of this collection notes that Brueggemann "is an excellent, if occasionally disruptive, companion for the Lenten journey" (p. 1). That he is.

What do you say about a book like this? It's intended to be a daily companion for the Lenten journey. Each day is marked by a scripture reading, a reflection written by Brueggemann, and a prayer that is written by Richard Floyd, the compiler of the collection.

To get a sense of the tonality of the collection, I share this word from the first devotion, the one set for Ash Wednesday. The text for the day is Isaiah 55:6-7, a text that calls us to "seek the LORD while he may be found." Brueggemann writes: "I believe the crisis in the U.S. church has almost nothing to do with being liberal or conservative; it has everything to do with giving up on the faith and discipline of our Christian baptism and settling for a common, generic U.S. identity that is part patriotism, part consumerism, part violence, and par affluence" (p. 2-3). That is the tone found through out. He doesn't allow either liberal or conservative to have the high ground. He's equally unsparing in his critique, even as he points us to Christ as hope.

Consider this word from the third Thursday of Lent. The text is Psalm 23:6, a passage that declares that "goodness and mercy pursue me." He writes: "Lent is a time to quit running, to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler offered rich and unexpected food" (p. 32).

Each day's devotion is just two pages in length. They don't take long to read. But, these do speak powerfully to our lives at this time and place. So, if you're looking for a Lenten companion, this might be just the right choice.

Adam Ogg says

Wally B strikes again!

Chris says

Challenging and thoughtful observations on the significance of Lent by a brilliant but down-to-earth scholar.

Bethany says

This was one of the few devotional books I've actually been fairly consistent in reading. I wanted to understand Lent in a new way (it's never really been a part of my church tradition). I have a high opinion of Walter Brueggemann.

About 2/3 of these were really good, and the other 1/3 fell flat for me. I'm not sure why.

I appreciate this book that's in a form that makes it accessible to many readers who wouldn't read other deep theological Brueggemann works.

Josh says

This daily guide through the season of Lent is unlike any other I have followed. Most devotionals lean heavily on personal piety, but Brueggemann, true to his nature, directs our attention to the collective struggle of God's beloved community and the tension that exists between the Kingdom of Heaven and the empire of the world. In this wilderness journey, the earthly powers of greed, exclusivity, and security forged by violence toward the enemy or neglect of the vulnerable are met by the strange and mysterious divine powers of servanthood, sacrifice, openness, and love.

The themes that Brueggemann presents at the beginning of the books surface and resurface throughout, but rather than becoming rote or repetitive, they are re-presented from new angles and with different emphases. The imagination of the prophet, which is Brueggemann's most consistent expressive medium, is both a comfort and a challenge to all of us who seek to follow Jesus on the way that leads to the cross, which also happens to be the only way that leads to true, full, and everlasting life.

I recommend this to anyone who hungers for a little more theological depth than most daily devotionals seem to offer. And don't take this journey alone...find some companions to walk this Lenten road with you!

Marilyn says

This little book was part of my Lenten study this year. It reminded me again and again that from out of today's chaos, I must find an alternative...not in hostility, but in compassion; not in abandonment, but in solidarity; not in isolation, but in covenant; not in estrangement, but in well-being...a way other than my own. The cross is the clue to living an alternative life in the world. It always requires an expenditure of self.

Jeanie says

Lent is a question, a gift, and a summons. The questions of Lent are: What are we doing? Are we working for that which does not satisfy? Are we spending for that which is not bread?

A journey of Lent for 40 days a devotional to bring to mind the questions of Lent. Each chapter starts with a verse, commentary and ends with prayer to be in God's presence. This all sounds very good to the follower of Christ and one that desires to look at Lent a fresh new way. I however, did not experience that and to be honest, I am not sure why. Maybe this is for you and if you are like me, maybe it's not. It just did not live up to the questions that it asked. The key word of the above questions is we...I am more encouraged when it reads what God did.

A Special Thank You to Westminster John Knox Press and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

Pat Newcomb says

A solid ground on which to stand

I liked the brevity. I liked the link to familiar scriptures. I liked the 'what if?' Approach. It's Walter Bruggeman. Count on solid theology.
