

Wisdom of Isaac the Syrian (4)

"No one can approach God without withdrawing from the world." - Isaac the Syrian, 600s AD.

Isaac decided to withdraw from his society to live in an isolated desert monastery (in what is present day Iraq). We may wonder what relevance Isaac has for us today, but I think we can learn much.

"Withdraw" doesn't necessarily mean physical withdrawal. But it does mean a _withdrawal mind-set_. so that our mind focus is not saturated with things the world considers all important.

"Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word." Ps 119.37 NLT

The adjective "worthless" is important. We do need to work to provide for family and to help those in need. We want to choose to spend our energy and hours on things that have lasting value.



Coffee/tea thought: What might a "withdrawal mindset" look like for me today?

John

Further reading: The Wisdom of Saint Isaac the Syrian, by Sebastian Brock (1995, 1997)

敘利亞聖以撒的智慧（4）

“人若不從世界退隱，就無法接近上帝。”——敘利亞人聖以撒，主後六百多年。

以撒決定退隱到沙漠裡（現在的伊拉克）的一個修道院，與世隔絕。我們或許想以撒對今天的你我有什麼相關，但我認為我們可以學到很多。

“退隱”並不一定意味著實際從世界退出。但它確實意味著一種退隱的心態，免得我們的心思焦點塞滿了世俗認為重要的東西。

“求你叫我轉眼不看虛假、又叫我在你的道中生活。” 詩篇 119:37

這句經文中所用的形容詞“虛假”（毫無價值），是很重要的。我們確實需要努力工作，照顧家庭，並幫助有需要的人。我們要選擇性地將我們的精力和時間花在具有持久價值的事情上。



隨想: 今天，對我來說，“退隱的心態”會是什麼樣子？

史建恩

進一步閱讀參考：敘利亞聖以撒的智慧 塞巴斯蒂安布羅克著（1995，1997年）