

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Religion of the Day with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapter 5

For the next session on May 7th, please read Chapter 5, pages 95-116 in *The Religion of the Day* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: *“Lord Jesus, you came as loving Savior, Taking upon Yourself the burden of my failing. I give You thanks that You remain always to hold open the door of faith. With the Heavenly Father, all things are possible, though at times I struggle with doubt. I give You thanks for forgiveness and hope renewed at the threshold of the door of faith. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, you were sent By the Father who desires that none be lost. I give You thanks that, even unbidden, you enter my heart through the door of faith. Lord, you have shown me the way Leading to eternal life with You. I give You thanks, for in prayer at any hour, you answer. Amen.”* <https://www.aleteia.org> Your reflections will be shared **May 7th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

1. On page 98, we are challenged when he writes, “Our most pressing practical concern in waging the spiritual battle is to ask how we, each one of us, might be more deeply converted in thought and action to the truth of Christ and ever freer from the false gospels that surround us.” What are some of the ways you are working on this in your everyday life?

2. The Embrace of a Different Gospel. We are called to be personally more fully converted, “and to develop apostolic strategies in our homes, schools, and parishes, such that the Gospel can be heard and experienced in all of its dynamic potency.” (p. 100) What does this mean for you? How do you see this occurring in our community?

3. The Temptation to Pride. Our world wants us to choose a morality and decide on the meaning of life without a Creator. We are challenged to accept the reality of the time and people around us, but with “a stance of humility.” How is Jesus our example to do this well? (p 102)

4. Soft-Pedaling the Fall. What key points stood out to you in this section?

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5. The Myopia (near-sightedness) of Secularity. The blurred vision we read here and the ease of being caught up “by the illusion that puts physical health ahead of spiritual health” should give us pause. Our youth (and many adults) are so caught up in the physical, forgetting or ignoring that their talents are God-given. What are some concrete ways we can help to redirect this?

6. The Utopian Drift. Here we read that there is “no moral wound in each human heart that tends toward evil and that therefore the possibilities for human betterment have no intrinsic limit.” What are your thoughts on this statement? How does the author address this issue?

7. Using the Enemy’s Weaponry to Fight the Lord’s Battles. When people want to effect a change, various kinds of force usually come into play. Christ didn’t “spread his Gospel by inflaming the passions of his hearers.” His goal was repentance and a return to God. The author writes, “Yet one act of self-denial for the sake of the Gospel, one single heartfelt prayer or act of charity toward those we are called love, will have more power in advancing the cause of Christ than months of angry listening to podcasts, or hours of sparring on social media...” (p. 116) How does this fill you with hope?

What else stood out for you in this chapter?

For your personal prayer:

When an old woman rebuked him for his conciliatory attitude toward the South, which she felt should be “destroyed” after the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln replied, “Madam, do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?”

Romans 12:20-21 Rather, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.”

“The devil is dismayed by humility, devastated by charity, and terrified by the Cross” (p.116)

