



The Lessons of Saint Francis: How to Bring Simplicity and Spirituality into Your Daily Life

John Michael Talbot , Steve Rabey

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Combining deep spiritual insight with the offer of a saner, less complicated way of living, this beautifully designed treasury of fundamental wisdom provides gentle guidance on the path to peacefulness and joy in a hectic age. 20 photos.

The Lessons of Saint Francis: How to Bring Simplicity and Spirituality into Your Daily Life Details

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From Reader Review The Lessons of Saint Francis: How to Bring Simplicity and Spirituality into Your Daily Life for online ebook

Peter Davids says

John Michael Talbot helps one read St. Francis and then think through what he means for today. Since JMT is a goldmine of information on the various saints and monastics, he has the background needed to understand Francis in his own situation and then translating that to what it might mean in our situation. This is not a book you read right through, but a book you read slowly and then think about. Yet it is also an easy read in terms of language, although challenging in terms of ideas.

Erica Gausa says

In the title line of this book, it reads, "A Monk's Guide to Daily Life". That is exactly what i was able to take away from this book... a guide to daily life. I am not a religious, nor am i considering a vocation to the religious life ; nevertheless , this book spoke to me. It gave insight on the ways of a simple monk and how his humble life of simplicity , quiet meditation , prayer, and service achieved for him lasting joy. After all, isn't everyone's goal in life to achieve peace for themselves ? St. Francis was able to obtain this grace for himself though the divine help from above, and by practicing the lessons he preached which are summarized in this book. I recommend The Lessons from St. Francis to anyone who's life is devoid of peace. His teachings offer ways to help tame the restless by ways of a simple life.

Gypsi says

Talbot uses St. Francis to encourage the reader to simplify and to become more spiritual in everyday matters. Subjects include humility, compassion, service, peace, and prayer. Talbot writes in a way that is accessible for everyone, and as a result, the book is not a deep one; it is, however, certainly inspiring.

Joey says

Fantastic. Only goes a couple inches deep, but was just what I needed, some common sense gleaning of the principles Francis lived his life by. Easy to read and with lots of practical advice that can easily be put into practice, I really enjoyed this book. As I said, a bit shallow and so not quite five stars, but still well worth a read. True, reinforced a lot of what I had been feeling lately anyway, but I would hope that I could have appreciated this in most of the stages of my life.

Saphraneet says

I did not know much about St Francis, so this book was a gentle introduction for me. I have listened to the author's music for years and therefore appreciated the personal notes on how his life has been changed by following the teachings of St Francis. The suggestions on how to incorporate these same lessons into one's

life were practical, even though one does not live in a Franciscan community.

Marc says

I read "The Lessons of Saint Francis" with my 20s/30s Sunday school class at, of all places, St. Francis UMC in Cary, NC, so unlike many of the other books I have read on here, I had a purpose other than just enjoyment in reading it.

Let me start off by saying this is not a bad book. I didn't hate it. But it did leave me personally a little flat. The author, John Michael Talbot, is an ex-hippie, ex-evangelical, Franciscan devotee (for lack of a better description). He follows the teachings of Francis of Assisi, the famous medieval ascetic friar and saint. He attempts to expound on the virtues of Francis' life and make them relevant to the lives of modern Christians. While he does do this at times, the value of this book is limited by the admiration, adoration, and adulation he heaps upon the saint. Francis was an admirable person, and he is someone from whom Christians should learn various traits. But the sun does not rise and set with him. Flowers didn't spring from his footsteps. His you-know-what didn't smell sweeter than most (and considering the bathing habits of medieval people, especially ascetic mystics, I'd wager it smelled worse). If you read any of the early biographies of Francis and can get past the sugary-sweet praise of the saint, you find that he was also a bit off his rocker at times. Talbot, like those early biographers, praises these eccentricities as if they were manna from heaven. But, I'm sorry, if someone is so crazy as to run out in the middle of the night and ring the church bell while shouting, "Look at the moon! Look at the moon!" and waking up all his neighbors, he doesn't deserve to be showered with praise; he deserves to be showered with the garden hose.

Anyway, my rant aside, Francis was an interesting human being, and one worthy of emulation in some respects. Talbot just fails to see the fact that Francis wasn't just a saint, he was a human being with many flaws.

Kathy says

This is a reflection on the life of Saint Francis written by someone who is a member of Secular Franciscan Order and has a special connection to the saint. He takes various aspects of Saint Francis's life and shows how people today can apply them today.

Deedee Dudley says

I have

Always loved the prayer known as the prayer of St. Francis, which is why I chose him as my patron saint. This book gave me many ideas for how I could model my own journey after his. My ultimate goal is to truly be an instrument of peace.

Gwendolyn B. says

I can best describe this book as Fransiscanism for Dummies. Talbot's terse writing style condenses the philosophies of one of the greatest saints into a much more digestible read than the tomes he recommends at the end!

Mark says

This book is DANGEROUS...

Best book I've read on St. Francis so far, and I've read a few. Although I've been a JMT fan for many years, even if I didn't know him I'd still rate this book the same. It gives many insights about St. Francis' life and spiritual walk with God in an easy-to-read condensed form, unlike the overly complicated and archaic writings of some of the others I've read. However, this isn't so much a biography as it is the Franciscan way of life, which is genuinely Christian. John Michael gives much practical advice on how to implement these practices in today's modern world which is still significant 20 years after it was written.

I found this book to be extremely convicting, inspiring me to improve as a professing Christian.

It's dangerous because if taken seriously (which it should) it could change your life!

Clint Roberts says

With my head being in a number of these spaces already, the book was a very easy read. A lot of the content seems like common sense, but it takes a conscious effort to put it into practice.

John says

This is an important book that I stumbled upon at an important season of my life. The topical organization of the book chapters on simplicity, joy, solitude, humility, creativity, chastity, community, compassion, creation, service, peace, and prayer has me thinking in different ways. I am looking forward to where this leads. (less)

Joan says

I was a bit disappointed by this book. I really didn't learn anything I hadn't known before. It annoyed me that Talbot would begin to discuss a "Franciscan" ideal and then back it up with a quotation from a different saint or religious figure. I understand the presented idea, just not what makes that particularly Franciscan.

We learned a lot about the author's life and how the friars of his community practice, but frankly that doesn't interest me as much as the Franciscan philosophy does and how Francis translated his ideals into his everyday life.

It wasn't completely useless, just not what I expected.

Ted Hinkle says

I have kept JMT's "The Lessons of St. Francis" nearby as a source of meditation since procuring a copy in 1999.

Caitlin says

I didn't know much about St. Francis before starting this book, but I finished the book with a profound sense of respect for him. The simple way he lived out the Gospel of Jesus is often considered beautiful in ideals but radical in application. Definitely read this one if you want to be challenged in the way you apply your faith to your life.
