God Complex Radio: Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land

Guest:
● Ruth Everhart’s book began as a search for clergy interested in a documentary about pilgrimage to the Holy Land. From there it evolved into a spiritual journey. (Find book trailer at rutheverhart.com)

Suggested learners:
● Adults and teens, especially those interested in culture, geography, and the Holy Land

Outline of interview:
● “Maybe this isn’t the only place I believe.”
● Jerusalem as the spiritual center of our planet—the cradle of Abrahamic religion
  ○ The “holiness of a particular geography”
  ○ The difference between reading about and experiencing the tactile aspects of the Bible
● The roots of violence can be seen in Scripture
● History is very present in the Holy Land; the two are coexistent
● “Abraham was chosen for the sake of all the families of the world”
  ○ “Jesus calls us to go beyond any notion of being chosen.”
● The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is put in perspective; the role of despair vs. hope in a situation like that
● Anybody can offer food, water, clothing and shelter; God can offer hope
● Jesus was divine, but he was also real; he lived here

Additional reflection questions:
1. What’s the difference between a pilgrimage and a trip? For Everhart it’s an attitude of the heart. Does that ring true for you?
2. In her book trailer, Everhart suggests that “returning home, [she] must not cease to be a pilgrim.” How do you maintain a pilgrim’s mindset in the day-to-day? Is it possible? Is it a good idea?
3. The interview touches on the “spiritual but not religious.” How do you see that difference in your daily life? Are you spiritual but not religious? Either way, how does your perspective shape your hearing of Everhart’s story?
4. “How can I go to this Holy Land when it’s really just a land of Holy War?” How does the
violent history of our faiths affect us today?

5. Referring to Palestinian refugee camps, Everhart asks “Who would I be if I had grown up here? Who would my children be?” Ask the same questions of yourself. What impact does that have on your opinion of the conflict?

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