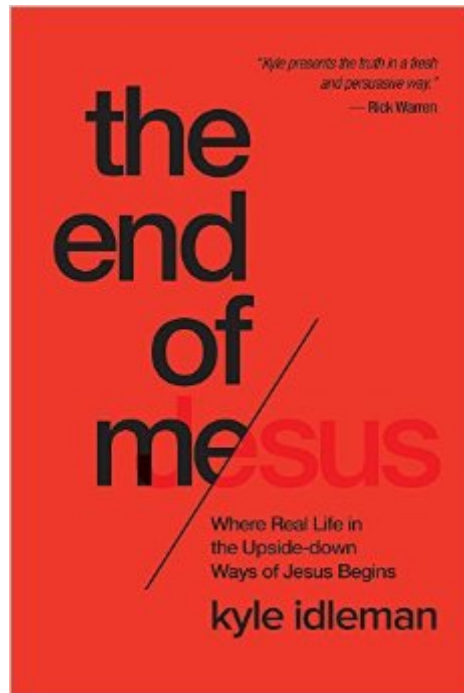


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The End Of Me: Where Real Life In The Upside-Down Ways Of Jesus Begins



Synopsis

Are you sometimes perplexed with Jesus's teaching? Do you really want what he wants? Bestselling author Kyle Idleman reveals that the key to the abundant life Jesus promised lies in embracing His inside-out way of life. As he examines Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, Kyle unpacks the many counter-intuitive truths, including: brokenness is the way to wholeness, mourning is the path to blessing, and emptiness is required in order to know true fullness. Ultimately you will discover how Jesus transforms you as you begin to live out these paradoxical principles. Because only when you come to the end of yourself can you begin to experience the full, blessed, and whole life Jesus offers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you feel you are at the end of yourself, Idleman says that's a good place to be. That is when Jesus becomes real in your life. His book is divided into two parts. In the first part, he explores how we come to the end of ourselves. The rest of the book is about putting ourselves into the best position to be used by God. Idleman looks at four beatitudes that put us on the path to real life. He writes about brokenness "the way to wholeness, mourning "the way to happiness, humbleness "the way to being exalted, and authenticity "the way to being accepted. Then he shows how Jesus fills us when we are empty. He uses stories from the Bible to illustrate how Jesus is willing to do that. Idleman also looks at what prevents us from being filled, such as failing to ask, feeling unworthy, and thinking it is too late. He also writes about our attempts

to fill our soul with things that do not fit. This is a pretty good book on getting to the point where we have nothing left. He has great stories (many about himself) and biblical illustrations as well as good exposition of Scripture. His chapter on humility is great and worth reading the book. The only thing that makes this book less than perfect is Idleman's quirky humor (you just have to read the footnotes). He's a funny man. But as I imagined a devastated person reading this book, hoping to find God's way out of the depths he or she is in, the humor seemed inappropriate and something that reduced the seriousness of the rest of his book. I recommend this book but if you are really at the end of yourself, skip the humorous footnotes and just read Idleman's serious and encouraging part of the text. Food for thought: "Dying to myself and reaching the end of me is meant to be a daily decision and a daily demonstration." I received a complimentary galley of this book from the publisher for the purpose of an independent and honest review.

At the heart of the nine beatitudes is a simple message of redemption. The story of redemption is counter-intuitive. People deny the Deity of Christ because it seems mathematically impossible. An infinite being cannot exist in a finite system, but Christ did that exactly. He came and took away the sins of the world, by dying on the cross. A few weeks ago, I began reading a book by Kyle Idleman called *The End of Me: Where Real Life in the Upside-Down Ways of Jesus Begins*. My life was already upside-down, and I was not sure there was anything that could begin there. Hopelessly, I read the book. In *The End of Me*, Kyle Idleman reminds the reader the first beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn." There is a blessing in weeping, although it does not make sense. David even sang God collects the tears of the righteous not as a memento of His wrath, but a reminder of His loving-kindness and righteousness. Quoting William Barclay, He wrote, "The Greek word for to mourn, used here, is the strongest word for mourning in the Greek language . . . It is defined as the kind of grief that takes such a hold that it cannot be hidden. It is not only the sorrow which brings an ache to the heart; it is the sorrow which brings the unrestrainable tears to the eyes." Recently, my studies and finances pushed me to the edge of the cliff. Each day, I stared at the abysmal prospects of failure and a fast mounting colossal debt. I am just a student and an author of a book on prayer that sold 33 copies in 33 days. So, I prayed and cried before the Lord. At the end of the day, I joined Jimmy Cliff singing, "I can see clearly now 'cause the rain is gone." It seems my tears removed the scales on my eyes. The funny thing about tears is that when they fill our eyes, that's when we see most clearly. In *The End of Me*, Kyle Idleman explores the counterintuitivity of the redemptive story. Using the Sermon on the Mount as foundational text, Kyle Idleman describes how each beatitude was counter-intuitive. For example,

he succinctly distilled the first beatitude to a seemingly ludicrous statement, “Happy are the sad.” If exposing counterintuitiveness of the Sermon on the Mount was his goal, then Kyle Idleman delivered well. However, he went an extra mile and dwelt on how reaching wits end was critical for experiencing the joy of the Lord. Thus, The End of Me is not a book to merely blow your mind by revealing the paradoxes in the most popular sermon, but a sobering look at the cost of true discipleship. I am glad D C Cook Publishers, honored me by requesting if I could review Kyle Idleman’s book which is going to be released on October 1, 2015. It was my pleasure to read this book and I have learned a lot.

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