



March 27, 2022

“Eyewitness Encounter”

John 12:12-19

Beyond Individualism

Notice that there are no examples of private miracles in the New Testament

God’s expansive, extravagant, spilling-over nature

What God does for me, it is not only for me

Those around me, those coming after me

An answer to the charge of divine stinginess in light of a “personal encounter survey”

Different kinds of divine encounters thus far discussed: circumstance, direct, disguised

There is an exponential access to divine encounter

Eyewitness Encounter Defined

Encountering Jesus by witnessing Jesus encountering someone else

A direct observation of an encounter between others is itself powerful

Second hand accounts also serve as a kind of encounter thru empathy and imagination

The documentary film and the filmed based on the story

Observing the Crowd at Lazarus’ Tomb: John 11 and 12

A miracle clearly intended for more than just Lazarus: John 11:4,6, 15

Jesus’ vulnerability attracts attention: John 11:37

Jesus prays out loud for the sake of the onlookers: John 11:41-42

Mixed reactions: some believed, some snatched: John 11:45-46

The continuing impact of Lazarus’ resuscitation: John 12:9-11, 17

The first-hand to second-hand chain underway: John 12:18

The powerful life-changing, chain-creating Lazarus event

In a similar way each of our divine encounters are also for others

Sharing Our Stories

Sharing our need is a way of preparing people to see God encounter us

Sharing our encounters is a way of inviting others into our encounter

This is a key way God works: the principle of the Abrahamic Covenant: Gen 12:3

Comforting others with the comfort with which we have been comforted: 2 Cor 1:3-7