



MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

THE LIFE AND VISION OF LILIAS TROTTER



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

THE LIFE OF LILIAS TROTTER WAS MARKED BY SEVERAL KEY THEMES, OUTLINED BELOW

BEAUTY

Many things begin with seeing in this world of ours.” – Lilias Trotter

1. How did Lilias’s unique way of seeing beauty in the world challenge you to expand your own views and vistas? When and how might you look for specific sightings?
2. What surprised you about Lilias’s desert-landscape artwork? What harsh conditions in your landscape could provide glimpses of beauty—if you were looking for them?

VOCATION

*“You can never tell to what untold glories a little humble path may lead if you follow far enough.”
—Lilias Trotter*

1. How do Lilias’s choices—and ultimate vocational fulfillment—contrast with society’s usual portrayal of “fame” or a “life well lived”? Consider aspects of each of these two “roads” that would satisfy you personally.
2. In the past or present, what, if any, passions or dreams have ever lain dormant because you felt they contradicted what society expected of you? Do these decisions prompt regret or satisfaction?
3. Have you, like Miriam, ever taken an interest in a particular subject that ultimately led to a life calling? If so, what did it teach you about passion and determination as it relates to calling?

SACRIFICE & SERVICE

“The true ideal flower is the one that uses its gifts as a means to an end. The brightness and sweetness are not for its own glory. They are but to attract the bees and the butterflies that will fertilize and make it fruitful, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.” —Lilias Trotter

4. Do you agree with Lilias’s decision to walk away from Ruskin’s offer and follow a different path? In what way did her decision to continue her art, but not in the way originally set out for her, inspire you?
5. Have you ever made a personal decision to sacrifice a dream, change course, and pursue a more compelling calling? What contributed to your decisions? What were the effects or consequences?
6. What can we learn from Lilias’s respect and admiration of the unfamiliar culture she entered? What risks might you need to take to live a “beautiful possible life” caring for others and this world?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find more works on or about Lilias Trotter at ManyBeautifulThings.com.