

The Ragamuffin Gospel

by Brennan Manning

The Ragamuffin Gospel is an easy-to-read book with a simple message about Grace; that God loves us no matter what and that accepting that and living in the good of it is foundational to freedom, peace and joy as a Christian. I come from a church background that majored on teaching Grace but this didn't detract from the enjoyment of hearing more, it was wonderfully reassuring.

The book is written from the heart and from experience, its full of interesting and relevant stories to illustrate the author's message, so it's easy to understand and relate to, and it's refreshingly honest. I found there were lot of sentences to underline and ponder on, things that challenged me, or made me stop and take stock.

Anything that didn't work?

Like all books with a very simple message it could seem repetitive and maybe a bit rambly at times but repetition is also a good tool for the memory. It also means that you could put the book down and pick it up again and soon get back into it. I confess for me there were gaps between reading sessions but each time, when reading on, it seemed to explain the lessons of the intervening weeks and highlight my faulty thinking and inconsistent behaviour and help me to get back in step with God.

Why should you read it?

The book deals with the fundamental truth of the Father's love and the meaning of the Cross for our lives. Whether exploring this amazing Grace for the first time or being well acquainted with it, we all need to keep being reminded and to grow in our understanding and experience of it, because we forget so easily and our culture and natural mindset is so geared to the opposite. This book helps us to understand and grasp these essentials and encourages us to walk free and confident in God's acceptance, to accept ourselves so that we can love others as He does.

Review by Nikki Pearson