



*Women
Speak of
God*

Lesson 3: Macrina – Scientist and Pastor

Dear friends,

Stem cell research, evolution and creationism, cloning, applications of technology, alternative medicine— you can think of others! Our lives are full of the intersection of science and religion. We ponder the ethical and spiritual dimensions of scientific discovery and application. Ours is an age when the conversation between science and religion is especially robust and more promising than ever. If you are interested in exploring this conversation, I suggest looking at the website for the Templeton Foundation, an organization devoted to pursuing "new insights at the boundary between theology and science." Go to <http://www.templeton.org/>.

Macrina stands as an amazing example of the way Christians have always had to deal with the struggle to integrate various fields of knowledge. Can science and religion speak to each other? Can God speak through natural law and scientific discovery? Can one articulate the Christian faith with the language of science? These questions are at the heart of Macrina's attempts to offer some intelligible explanation of resurrection. She playfully imagines how such a great mystery could be understood.

Her willingness to send up some test balloons and try out possible understandings can embolden us. God's life is bigger than human categories of knowing. We need not fear sending up some test balloons of our own. It is crucial that faithful people engage the issues and insights that science offers. We have things to say and things to learn.

Blessings,

Amy