

Monday digest

March 26, 2012

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New today (and Friday) from the *Century*:

- Jesse James DeConto on [first-call church planters](#): "Emily Scott had an idea: what if young adults got together for a weekly agape feast? Soon St. Lydia's was born--but Scott was not ordained."
- Rodney Clapp laments [the demise of bookstores](#): "My wife and I used to visit a bookstore at least once a week. We can't anymore, unless we drive 20 minutes to the now nearest one." (subscription required)
- Matthew Avery Sutton reviews [Jay Rubenstein's book on the First Crusade](#): "Jay Rubenstein offers a lively and well-researched history of the First Crusade. He has a gift for making thousand-year-old history both exciting and relevant." (subscription required)
- Theresa Cho on [Solomon, babies and presbytery meetings](#)
- Ryan Dueck on [deserving a happy ending](#)
- Dean Lueking [blogs the lectionary](#)
- "[A shimmer of something](#)," a poem by Brian Doyle

In the news:

- [What Would Jesus Brew? Lots, beer makers say](#)

- [Pope tells Cubans to look beyond Marxism](#)
- [Study offers view of religious life behind prison walls](#)