

Wednesday digest

April 4, 2012

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New today from the *Century*:

- Sara Maitland's annual sojourn in pursuit of [desert silence](#): "All deserts are silent, harsh and beautiful. Sinai adds its history of God's dealings with humanity. It's a holy place where the veil is lifted."
- A companion [interview with Maitland](#): "Silence gives me freedom in both real time and psychic time. When I talk less, I see more. And silence gives me time to pray." (subscription required)
- Carol Howard Merritt on [the rules of power](#) and why pastors should understand them
- What J. C. Schaap [won't forget about April 4, 1968](#)

In the news:

- [Bart Ehrman's new portrayal of Jesus is surprisingly sympathetic](#)
- [Jewish support for Obama strong despite Israel stance](#)