



Holy Week Update

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Luke 24:1-12 The women at the empty tomb

Throughout Lent we have been asking questions. We have looking at important questions to ask ourselves and to ask of God as we walk in faith. We asked “Who is lost?” and accepted the church’s own role in losing so many potential sheep. We asked “Who is our neighbor?” as we pondered the story of the Samaritan who refused to turn a blind eye to the suffering of a fellow human being. Last week we asked, “Who will shout?” as we remembered Jesus’ words as he entered the city

As the women approached the tomb of Jesus, they had another questions, “Who will roll away the stone for us?” When they reached the tomb with their spices and oils to anoint Jesus’ body, they were shocked to find the stone was rolled away, the tomb empty, and two men dressed in white. The men asked the women another question: “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

The answer was simple: they were not looking for the living. They were coming in grief, looking for a dead body. They saw him crucified. They saw him bleed. They saw him take his last breath. They saw him sealed into the tomb. How could they expect to find anything but a dead body?

Finally, after all of these questions were asked, the two mysterious men gave them—and us—an answer, “He is not here. He is risen.” And thus we have the answer to all of our questions.

“Christ is Risen,” is the anchor to all that we know and believe. It is why all the other questions matter. He led us to questions about our neighbor, the nature of God’s family, the use of money, who to eat with, who to heal, who to weep for, and who to shout for. He gave us question after question, and then he gives us the answer that makes all those questions matter: “He is risen.”



“The myrrh-bearing women at the tomb”

<https://pemptousia.com/2020/05/the-myrrh-bearing-women-arrive-at-the-empty-tomb/>

Yet the questions do not end with “He is Risen.” Even in this short passage we see that there is still confusion and fear. Knowing that he has risen isn’t enough. Many people can read this story, even believe that it is true, and call themselves Christian, but is that enough? To many Christians, belief is all that matters. Find this answer, “He is Risen,” and that’s all you have to know.

Yet a life of faith is not about finding this answer and stopping. Once we have this answer, we must continue to ask questions. We must keep probing to find out what “He is Risen,” means to us. If he is risen, then what does that mean? What does that mean to a world that is still dominated by fear of death? What does that mean to a system that is based on fear and scarcity? What does that mean to a community that fears strangers and rejects new comers? What does that mean to my own heart, which is quick to apathy and slow to examine my own privilege and complicity in the suffering of others?

He is Risen is not the final answer. It is the first answer that matters. Now it is time to keep asking questions about what that means to us.