

Message Based Questions - April 16, 2017

Kent Dobson - Easter

Reading

I believe in a Christianity where nothing is left out and no one is left behind, where humanity participates with God in the redemption of the world; where sin is more than a legal problem to be judged but a relational problem that can be healed; where we pursue harmony, centered on Jesus the Messiah, the Jew, whose life, death, and resurrection allow us to live well with God; where the Bible draws us into a story of life and healing; where we find hope for this life and life ever after; where love is alive, where love drives out fear, where love propels us toward lives lived for the betterment of all the world. - *Doug Pagitt*

Possible Discussion Points/Questions

This is not the age of information. People are hungry and one good word is bread for a thousand people.

- What do you think this poem is pointing to?

Jesus says, "I have come so that they might have life and have it to the full." But what people don't pay attention to is that part of your life has to die before the new, full life can come.

- How have you experienced part of your life dying so new, full like could come?

Pascal mystery - death and resurrection - somehow the Divine comes to us in the form of death that turns into life. We are invited to undergo such a thing. Not just to worship it.

- What is significant about Kent saying "Not just to worship it."

We would rather take what happened and lock it down - point to it as an event that happened, a doctrine to believe, a stained glass window to be looked at - rather than have it be true in us.

- Why do you think this is?

Try on disappointment, failure, disillusion. Try having all of your ideas about God unravel. Then you'll find yourself on the road where Jesus can finally appear to you.

- What are some ideas about God that you have had unravel? What did that feel like?

Whatever we thought God to be...died. Into the ground it went.

- How can you identify with the disciples when it comes to that kind of experience?

Unless a grain of wheat dies, it just remains a single seed. But if it dies, it goes into the ground and reaps a hundred fold.

- What in you do you think still needs to die? What do you think can grow from that death?

Christianity started because people were willing to have conversations and share a meal. They didn't even have a Bible. The story is not lodged in words, it's something that is meant to be in the human soul.

- Where do you experience that kind of Christianity - conversations and meals? How can you facilitate that for others?

Hope is not the same thing as 'things going well' ... it is an ability to work for something because it is good, not because it stands a chance to succeed. Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It's not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.

- How do you practice this kind of hope in the world?

Closing Prayer

Thank you for death and resurrection. We're grateful for the transformation it leads us to.

Amen.