

Thursday, April 23

Read John 20:19-30. There is humor in the Bible if only we look for it. Sometimes we have to be creative in seeing humor in our scriptures; an image of Jesus and the Disciples leaning forward to hear the two coins from the widow drop into the brass collection container is comical. Perhaps you've heard the joke about the reservation made for The Last Supper: "We'd like a table for 24 – we're all going to sit on one side." Certainly Jesus was being humorous when we asked the not-so-rhetorical question, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)

Are there other Biblical stories or narratives that you have found humorous? How might a humorous approach to our scriptures shape our understanding of God and Jesus the Christ? Think about this for a while and write your reflections here.

Friday, April 24

Read Psalm 100 – all five verses!! Think about the notes you might have taken on this Psalm during the message. Think about the imperatives mentioned during the message: make, worship, come, know, enter, give thanks, bless! These action words give us the sense that we have control of our emotions and how we react to difficult situations in our lives. It also connects joyfulness and authentic worship with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Try this. Stand up and read Psalm 100 in a sing-song way. Perhaps you'd like to read it in an operatic way. How about a heavy metal or at least rock and roll version? Country? (Maybe not, the words are too happy! Did we just go there?) However you read Psalm 100 just know "the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations!"

Message Notes – April 19, 2020

*Boo! Peace Be With You**

- I. I shared a bit about the *Risus Paschalis*. The practice was discontinued for _____ and only in the last couple decades has there been a resurgence of the Easter _____ – the *Risus Paschalis*.
 - A. The idea is that _____ *does* have a sense of humor, and it was _____ who had the last laugh when people went to the tomb that Easter morning.
 - B. Perhaps that is why _____ Clement X put an end these practices in the 17th Century.
 - C. I for one am glad that we've resurrected *Risus Paschalis* or _____ _____ Sunday as we've come to call it.
- II. It's a good thing to take some time to _____, relax and _____ the resurrection faith we proclaim.
 - A. There is not much to laugh about during _____.
 - B. Good Friday is often the _____ and most solemn of the week's religious observances.
 - C. There is little room for _____ leading up to Easter.
- III. Why would we dedicate an entire worship experience to humor, sharing _____ and encouraging grins, _____ and guffaws? Let's check with some folks with certain authority.
 - A. Sociologist, W.E.B. Du Bois, wrote, "I am especially glad of the _____ gift of laughter; it has made the world human and lovable, despite all its pain and wrong."
 - B. Comedian, Milton Berle, is attributed with "Laughter is the best _____."
 - C. How about "Laughter is like a _____, it doesn't stop the rain but allows us to keep going."

*Psalm 100 and John 20:19-30

- D. We laugh because it's good for us, including the ability to keep _____ when it's raining.
- IV. I read in a study years ago, that one of the primary signs of _____ in a church is laughter.
- A. Another sign of health in churches and especially in its leadership is _____.
- B. It doesn't get more _____ than when people can laugh openly and freely with others.
- C. Look at that picture of Jesus again: What do you think happened or was said that made Jesus laugh?
- V. We can find humor in many places in the _____ if we look for it.
- A. The John 20:19-30 passage.
- B. Psalm 100
- C. These are fearful days my friends and we must still do that which hinders the growth of Covid-19, but at Ecclesiastes 3 tells us, there's a time to _____.

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 20

There are many pictures titled "Jesus Laughing." Perhaps you've seen one of these pictures, paintings or photos before. What is your immediate reaction when you see a picture of Jesus laughing? You had opportunity to think about this during the

message, but consider how this picture makes you feel about Jesus.

Many believe that the thought of Jesus laughing makes him somehow more human. What do you think? Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, April 21

Lent is a very somber and solemn time of our Christian year. By design we are to take our spiritual growth and relationship with Christ seriously during the 40 days of Lent. The result, however, is that there is little joy during this season; especially as we travel the last week of Lent – Holy Week. Pastor Jack often shares that the somber and solemnness of Lent makes the joy of Easter all the more sweet! What do you believe about solemnness of Lent as a necessary opposition to the joy of Easter? Can we truly and fully experience the joy of Easter without recognizing the seriousness and pain of Lent? Meditate on these questions and write your response here.

Wednesday, April 22

Think about the jokes and humor that was shared during our Holy Humor Sunday. There is no doubt that humor and laughter are coping mechanisms. Some think humor is inappropriate in the realm of faith and religion. W.E.B. Du Bois called laughter a divine gift. Laughter is called the best medicine by many.

Haven't you ever been in a tense and solemn situation in which the tension was relieved or reduced by a humorous observation or joke? As long as the humor wasn't at the expense of another person, it can provide healing in the face of difficulty. What are your thoughts? Record them here.

