

They either overestimated the courage of Jesus' disciples or they believed that Jesus just might come back from the grave.

Why do you think the religious leaders of Jesus day, successful in having Jesus killed, still felt threatened? What was the true motivation in having the tomb sealed? Write your ideas here praying for God's wisdom and insight into the negative motives that sometimes consumes people.

Thursday, April 8

Read Romans 8:35-39. Because of the fellowship and love within the Holy Trinity, God was able to be reconciled with Jesus who gave his life for the sins of the world. That is an incredible gift that emanates from the love of our God. It is a love so profound that nothing can separate us from it. Still, we sometimes believe that what we have done, the sins we have committed can do just that – separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The scriptures make it clear that all we have to do confess our sins and we will receive forgiveness and be reconciled with our loving Creator. (Romans 10:9) When was the last time you asked God (or anyone) for forgiveness? Consider how your life would be unburdened if only you made amends with God and others and be freed to move forward in your life and faith. Meditate on these thoughts and write your response here.

Friday, April 9

God wants us to be free from whatever keeps us from loving others. Whatever one believes about the resurrection of Jesus, it is how that resurrection is lived in our lives that matters; to the point of believing that it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us. How do you live a resurrection life? How is Christ living through you? Write your response here.

Message Notes – April 4, 2021

Words to the Cross – Love Conquers A Futile Word*

- I. Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? I've had a song stuck in my head for over a _____ now: Queen's *Can Anybody Find Me Somebody to Love*.
 - A. I had that song on my mind as I have wanted to speak about the breaking forth of God's _____ from the tomb on that first Easter morning.
 1. Did you pick up on the _____ of this song?
 2. I hear Jesus in the last week of his life, struggling to be _____ to his heavenly Father.
 - B. Jesus had a mission in this world and at the heart of that mission is _____!
- II. It seemed that any hope in Jesus' earthly mission was ended on the _____ and then seal up in a borrowed _____.
 - A. It seemed that the group of men, most responsible for Jesus' death, was _____.
 - B. Their words, "Command the tomb to be made secure," were _____.
- III. To truly understand what happened on that first Easter morning we must understand the essential _____ of our God.
 - A. God is _____. _____ is at the core of Jesus' ministry.
 - B. _____ was constantly asking "Can anybody find me somebody to love?"
 - C. Jesus _____ them, taught them and offered forgiveness and _____; in other words, he loved them!

*Matthew 27:62-66 and Luke 24:1-12

- IV. I want to tell you that this love that I'm talking about isn't some _____ and sentimental nonsense.
- This is the love of a God who gave the world his only son, not to condemn the world but to _____ the world (John 3:16-17)
 - All _____ was formed out of God's nature to love.
 - God is love because God is communal and has always existed as a _____ of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit or as we often say, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
 - On Good Friday we recognize the brokenness of Jesus as he felt completely _____ from his Heavenly Father.
 - The _____ swept over that tomb reconciling Jesus and the Creator.
 - Because of greatest reconciliation of the Holy _____, love burst from that tomb!
- V. We are sorely mistaken if we believe that the _____ is a one and done situation.
- The resurrection is God's _____ to continue the work of Jesus the Christ.
 - Friends, you can only count on one thing in this life – love _____.
 - For there is no end to the _____ love of our God who asks of us, "Can anybody find me somebody to love?"

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional 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 5

The message began with the introduction about getting a song stuck in your head. Has that ever happened to you? Pastor Jack said that as a product of the church and age of classic rock and

roll, he looks for religious meaning in rock songs. What types of songs get caught in your head? What do they say about you as a person? As a follower of Christ? Do you try to find meaning in this type of event in your life? Consider the question as we begin to contemplate this week our God who is always looking for *Somebody to Love*. Write your reflections here.

Tuesday, April 6

The first verse of *Somebody to Love* has the words, "Lord, what you're doing to me. I have spent all my years in believing you, but I can't get no relief, Lord! Somebody, somebody, can anybody find me somebody to love?" Pastor Jack hears in these words the feeling of Jesus during the last week of his life, struggling to be obedient to his heavenly Father. Meaning that Jesus was frustrated with the disciples as they fight over who will be the greatest in the kingdom he taught about, not getting to the core of his teachings. I hear Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." (Matthew 26:39) What do you believe Jesus was feeling during that tumultuous last week of his life? Did he wonder what the Lord was doing to him? Can you think of another song or poem that might express Jesus' frustration during the last days of his life? Meditate on these questions and record your thoughts here.

Wednesday, April 7

Read Matthew 27:62-66. It was not enough for the men who opposed Jesus to oversee his death and burial. So they went to Pilate and said, "command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." (Matthew 27:64)