

Scripture Group Reflection: April '24

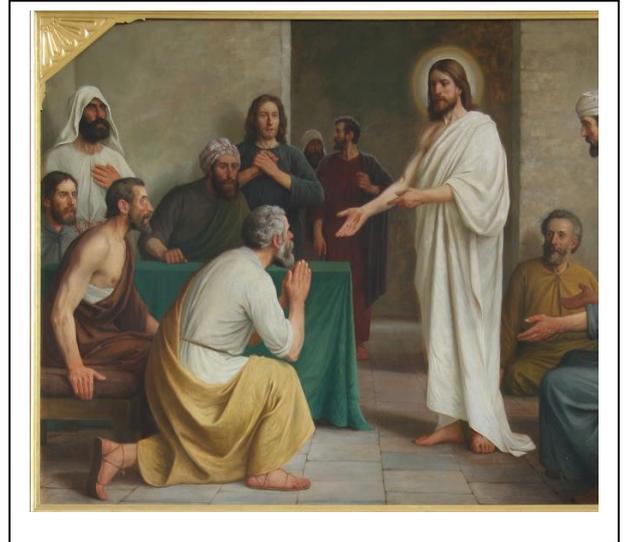
The month of Resurrection

During the Lenten Scripture Group meetings, we've travelled with Jesus through his baptism, teachings, life with his disciples and finally the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We pondered on his direct confrontation with evil with the corrupt structures of the Judaism of his day. The question arose "Why does God, who created everything in the universe, allow evil to exist?"

This is one of the great questions of all time. The best answer I have heard was by Anthony Meredith S.J. who said that God uses everything for his own purposes, even evil. (Prov.16:4) it allows us a choice. The choice to live in love or not. True love cannot be forced, but must be freely given. There must be an option.

In Jesus' parable of the Lost Son, the younger son initially chose a destructive path, which could have destroyed his life. He remembered in his despair the love and forgiveness, (which he knew deep within him) that his father would have for him. He returned and was resurrected to a new life, which seems in the parable to have become a much greater father-son relationship than that with the elder son. The elder son had not confronted and overcome the destroying power of evil. He was perhaps just going through the outward motions of father-son relationship. The resurrection of the younger son makes us ask if we too are just going through the motions of our relationship with God, or are we in a deep loving a Father-child relationship? We are his "beloved" child who has been forgiven everything and is welcomed into a new and wonderful life with him.

Jesus' resurrection is proof of our eternal life with God our loving father. This resurrection is for us too as Jesus' body here on earth. "On that day you will realise that I am in my father, and you are in me and I am in you" John 14:20



Jesus speaks to Thomas after the resurrection

"Resurrection and renewal are the universal and observable pattern of everything. (Springtime, regeneration, healing, forgiveness, lifecycles, dark ness and light.

If incarnation is real and spirit inhabited matter from the beginning, then resurrection in multitudinous forms is to be fully expected"
Richard Rohr OBM

"If God inhabits matter, then we can naturally believe in the "resurrection" of the body."
Richard Rohr.

"We cannot give up in the face of evil. God is love and he has defeated evil through Christ's death and resurrection." Pope Francis Homilies 03.04.13.



