



Transition

Endings, the neutral zone and new beginnings

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his [Jesus'] body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. (Luke 23: 55-56)



Entombment, Peter Paul Rubens, 1612

Finding our story in God's story

There are patterns of faith development and transition which are mirrored in the Easter narrative.

Infatuation/Enchantment (Palm Sunday): "No doubts" stage where Christ is my hero and everything will be fine.

Nesting/Manipulation (trial and betrayal): Judas, Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate manipulate to find their niche and social status. Peter's dilemma over loyalty and identity.

Crisis (Good Friday & Holy Saturday): The disciples' disillusionment at the death of a hero. Jesus's descent into the depths and darkness of the subconscious.

Resolution: An experience of new life, energy, perspective, priorities. Fruit starts to grow: peace, creativity, new direction, service. Waiting for the Spirit. Integration.

Reading material

Books: *Transitions - Making sense of life's changes* and *The way of transition* by William Bridges

Reflecting on the shape of transitions in relation to the Easter narrative, Bridget Macaulay (written paper, possibly available on request.) The text below is drawn from Bridget's work.

Picture: *Resurrection*, David Begley

Poetry: *IKON, the harrowing of hell*, Denise Levertov

The shape of transition

Endings - Good Friday

The dejected figure of Jesus can perhaps enable us to experience Christ's presence in our own endings of disillusionment, disloyalty, dissatisfaction and disorientation.

The Neutral zone - Waiting in the tomb - Saturday

What have your experiences been of being "nowhere but somewhere"?

We see the hands of the women who cared for Jesus, anointing him and clothing him even in death. Who has cared for you while you have waited in the tomb for new life? Is there someone in this position that you can care for?

New beginnings - Easter Sunday

Resurrection and life come out of the integration of light and dark within ourselves. We emerge from the depths into a new perspective and level of insight.

Questions

Casting your mind back through your life do the descriptions above help with a bigger holding narrative?

Where might I be at this time and in what way might this help me negotiate my way through and with Jesus?

The Coracle Trust - Helping transition in faith through the life stages

Web: www.coracletrust.org.uk | Email: coracletrust@gmail.com | Registered charity SC033358