

Date: April 19, 2026 (Easter 3)

1. Texts: Acts 2:14a, 36-42; Ps. 34:1-10; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.
2. Subject: discipleship.
3. Topic: freedom to question.
4. Aim: encourage.
5. Proposition: "Jesus proved it's ok to ask questions of the faith."

NO BLIND FAITH—EVER

Week by week, I lead the Bible Study by asking questions, to which the participants must find their answers. Usually, they end up asking different questions in order to reach those answers. My question on the use of "Son of God" leads to questions about the Trinity which leads to questions about the role of the Holy Spirit which leads to questions about baptism. That route may even lead us to questions about salvation and eternal life in the presence of God. We learn best by asking questions and seeking our answers.

Jesus justified this method on the Emmaus Road. Cleopas and his companion clearly had questions about the resurrection and the report of Mary. Remember, at the time none of the disciples understood anything about the resurrection of the Messiah—even though Jesus had told them about the necessity of resurrection. With a hint of exasperation Jesus said,

"Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"¹

Then, he sketched salvation history for them. He took their questions and used Scripture to guide them towards their answers.

Later Jesus would respond to the questions of Thomas in the same way. Jesus legitimized Thomas' questions, as he had done for Cleopas and his companion.

In both cases the disciples wanted to know about the truth of the resurrection and they wanted to know what it meant for them. For the Emmaus

¹ Luke 24:25-26.

Road disciples, Jesus guided them through the Scriptures, to lay the foundation for the ultimate answer to their questions: the self-revelation of Jesus as the resurrected Christ—which is exactly the answer to Thomas’ questions.

But these questions and their ultimate answer are based in community.

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.²

It wasn’t the Scripture that Cleopas reported—it was the interaction with the resurrected Christ. This happened within the community of the disciples.

It wasn’t the reports of the disciples that convinced Thomas. It was the interaction with the resurrected Christ. This happened within the community of the disciples.

Now we have a legitimate process for learning the faith. We ask questions and develop answers within the fellowship of the Christian community. These questions and answers lead us towards a communal experience of the resurrected Christ. It is in that Christ we find our truths as learners.

So, hear this: there is no such thing as “blind faith” in the Christian Church. You have a God-approved right to question everything. Distrust anyone who says, “Just believe.” Distrust any individual who says that he or she is the source of genuine knowledge and truth. Our faith is a shared treasure. We cooperate in developing our understandings and applications. Only cult leaders say, “I am right, and you can only find the truth through me.”

On the basis of the experiences of Cleopas and Thomas, I encourage you to ask questions of God, of the Church and of the faith. But I encourage you to avoid doing all that alone. Answers isolated from the community of faith usually only reinforce our current prejudices and understandings. Ask questions and seek

² Luke 24:33-35.

answers from within the community, using as broad a section of the Church as is practicable.

So,

1. Find your questions. If you have lots, rank them as “urgent”, “important” or “persistent but not immediate”.
2. Find the subsection of the Church within which you want to seek answers. This more manageable community must be open to Scripture, Tradition and Reason in developing answers.
3. Pose the questions and listen for the still, small voice of God from your community. Ultimately, these voices should aim you in the direction of the resurrected Christ.

With this method in mind, you can ask God,

- Why did my grandchild have to die?
- If God is so loving, why does he allow wars, drought and plagues?
- How do I help someone who wants to choose Medical Assistance in Dying?

We are encouraged to ask questions of God from within the community of the faithful. Jesus proved this. Cleopas, Thomas and the Church benefitted from this. May each of us find the courage to pose our questions from the safety and support of the Church.

AMEN.