

Easter in Isolation

I have to admit, I have never had an Easter like this one!! It literally is the first Easter I have not worked as such in 36 years. Although because this sermon is happening, I suppose I am working.

The point is that this year everything is different. WE aren't having the big Easter services, the multiple gatherings and celebrations. It's quieter and it does give us the chance to be reflective.

I mean, **What is Easter about?** anyway?

It is a celebration of what Jesus did. This Good Friday thing celebrates what He did on that day that he was tried, abused, physically assaulted, persecuted if you like, then killed.

We could be very graphic and point out the physical impact of Jesus body, we could talk about injustice or perhaps the emotional toll that it took on him, but today I think it appropriate to talk about the isolation He felt.

1. His friends left Him behind.

Joh 18:25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."

Joh 18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

Joh 18:27 Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

We assume that our friends and family are those who will hang with us when the going is tough – Jesus experienced something different. They literally ran away and lied about knowing Him.

2. The system rejected him.

Joh 18:28 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

Joh 18:29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

Joh 18:30 They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."

Joh 18:31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."

The so called fair Roman legal system literally wiped its hands of Jesus.

3. Isolated from the Godhead.

Mar 15:33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Mar 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

I am not sure we can get this. God turning away from God. God can't look at sin, yet God takes on the sin of the world. There is an isolation that we will never experience or fully comprehend. Thankfully.

Where does all this sit in our isolation? One big thing, God knows what it is like to feel isolated. God knows alone like we can not experience. The other thing is He went through this so we wouldn't be left isolated. Even though we are alone or isolated in different places, God is present, and we can experience, understand, be part of this truth through a relationship with Him.

It's worth reflecting on isn't it.