

“The Time Is...*NOW!*”

“*Pull Me Out Of Doubt And Into Peace!*”

2 Corinthians 6: 2; John 21: 1-19

April 3, 2016 Second Sunday of Easter

Pull me out of time...please...I need a moment....to think, to process, Lord...to put my head in my heart and truly listen....to myself, to my life, to those whom I want to listen to because they have a track record of wisdom.

Pull me out of time so I can truly listen to these Easter stories and move beyond them!

How do I become that new human being Jesus invites us to become...*with stories like this in mind?*

Oh my....so much...too much?!!

Pull-me-out-of-time....stop the clock... beyond daylight savings time.... But ya' know.... *even with all this over thinking....I know...* I-know there is something beyond the literal meaning of these Wisdom Stories and even my own life's stories.

I have this inner *knowing*:
There is a bigger plan than the one I have for my life alone. I sense it.
Even as I question it, I want it!

Even as I wish time to stand still,
I already deeply feel You here with me in the moment!

O Holy One: **You are** with me! And...I'm amazed at the way You love me all the time. I feel this subtle support with me all the time. Now! and maybe, just maybe...what I'm really afraid of... is not so much You...

but me! The way...I...love You all the time. I need to love all the time...love You... And love people all the time!

Honestly...maybe what I'm most **amazed of, and afraid of...** is me....how I can love... or not!

(...what I know, I feel, I need, I want.)

These are amazing stories about a love

that has no end, that really could, really does!
...**pull us out of time** and place and circumstance. Amazing!

The time is...now! The time is now! The time is now!
Let it be!

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Imagine the scene.

Afraid for their lives. Locking themselves in, “them” out. Who would your “them” be today?

And there He is...and of all things to say....  
Peace be with you! Peace?

And he breathes on them...as God breathed life into creation.

And again, Peace. And peace seems to have something to do with our ability to forgive.

And there he was, Thomas... in that moment an average Joe.

And, *right here*, we are...average Joes and Josephines. Doubting...like him.

So often for most of us seeing is the only way to believing/beloving ...even when we want for it to be different.

(Remember from Easter being Christian in not believing in a set of ideas, it is living a spiritual practicum, believing as Jesus believes. Not believing in the resurrection but living a resurrected life.)

Jesus knows that about us...most of live in the “show me state”...of being.

He isn't mad about it, doesn't make it harder for Thomas...or us. Jesus gives him just what he needs to be able to believe.

But it took Thomas not running from his doubt or hiding behind his fear.

He asks for what he needs. He has doubts but he has faith too....

faith enough to ask his questions of Jesus directly.

It seems doubt and faith come together.

Doubt and faith are not opposites.  
It seems they help each other.

It is Thomas' faith that is twinned with his doubt.

Faith without doubt is a rote exercise,  
a monolith of absolutes...

at least until life starts raining on you...then it becomes a slippery slide....faith based in absolutes or ideas.

Faith isn't afraid of doubts.

Faith thrives by asking questions of life and divine loving.

Jesus isn't afraid of the fear that often accompanies doubt.

We're often afraid of doubt...try to silence it.

We fear what we do not understand and we often kill what we fear.

But with Jesus, there is another way to use your fear  
rather than run from it.

So, firstly, what is it that you fear most?

...are you unconsciously destroying that which you don't understand? Or asking better questions of it?

...are you blaming your locked doors and actions on a "faithless" hopeless world...or neighbor?

Better yet...

When, where, and how has greeted you in the least expected times and places and circumstance....pulling you out of time? Right through the locked doors of your heart?

As unexpected as the risen Christ appearing a locked room?

Christ comes alongside right through your own closed thinking and fear...and pulls you out of time and place and circumstance.

Showing you what you can believe if you so choose and it begins with believing in yourself enough to ask tough questions of yourself and life and doing something about it!

The way to peace.

It has to do with forgiving. Opening your mind to forgive. Not retaining anyone's sins/mis-steps/hurtful actions...even betrayal.

Hear, Jesus doesn't say forget but rather forgive.

More like be aware *and* let it be.

You can open your locked doors and free yourself to be at peace.

Peace: It's not about "them", it's about you.

The time is now to live...doubts and all!  
(Pause)

What would it take for you to "unlock the doors"  
of your belief and see Christ beside you?

And touch him?

How could you live a forgiveness that gifts you peace....  
not in your words...but in your actions, your living, your choosing...  
so that your life lives in an accompaniment  
of clanging cymbals, lutes and lyres, dancing.

**It is not what we say we believe or don't believe...that matters.** *It's not about our doubts!*

*It is about our believing, our faithing!*

It is what we do with what we believe that brings us life,  
out into the open, out from behind locked doors,  
pulls us out....or not!

What we do does us harm or not...all the time,

Caves in on us or rolls away boulders blocking our way...every time.

Keeps us stuck in time or pulls us out!

No doubt, there are Doubting Thomas times in your past, and even now! Yippee!

Times in Tippe's past and now. ...times when you longed to believe but doubted because you could not see what you needed to see.

Be at peace about it. Come to peace!

We carry wounds.  
They don't define or lock us into a way of being...  
unless we let them.

It is right through Jesus wounds, that peace is offered, right through the very thing that killed him.

Right through your wounds...God offers peace.

Not hope, peace.

Where hope gives out, peace still abides.

While hope soothes and inspires,

surrendering to doubt and accepting the way we are....  
brings us into the present moment  
and that is only place  
in which we can experience peace.

Dinner is getting cold while you're hoping for what is not.

Dinner is eaten when you sit to enjoy what is.

Hope can keep you wishing for something you don't have.

Peace happens when you surrender to what is, doubts and all, happens when you find forgiveness...

which frees up so much time that you would have been spent worrying and doubting and holding on to the past.

Jesus comes to bring you peace right where you need it most...the holes in your hands, your side, your heart.

Jesus brings deep, forgiving peace.

And when any one of us is bereft with doubt,  
we hold faith for each other...

beloving in what we cannot see...for each other.

Praying for each other, being with each other,  
showing each other our wounds...healing our souls.

What would it take for you to "unlock the doors"  
of your faith and find peace?

**You have been taken out of time this morning!**

It's all in *your* timing now...and isn't it time?

The time is Now to love and be loved!

The time is Now! The time is NOW!

Let it be. Let it be. Let it be.