



Learning to Let Go

Pentecost

Letting Go of the Control of Certainty

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The Paschal Mystery

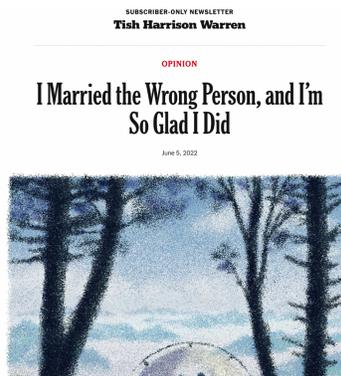
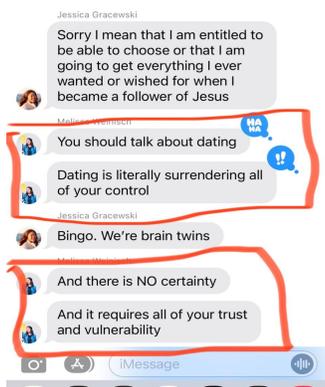
Good Friday: “The Loss”

Easter Sunday: “New Life”

Forty Days: “Readjustment to New, Grieving the Old”

Ascension: “Letting Go”

Pentecost: “Receiving of New Spirit”



“Choosing whom to commit ourselves to is merely a case of identifying which particular variety of suffering we would most like to sacrifice ourselves for.”

- Alain de Botton



We make faith a “*that*” word...when in fact faith is a “*who*” word.

Genesis 15 – Faith is Amen to God

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Amen is a declaration of trust.

Abraham's "amen" to God is not simply a faith that God was able to give him a child; it was a trust in God to give him a child.

Faith is a "who" word

Believing is a "who" word

Trust is a "who" word

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Mark 5 – Faith is Losing Control

Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Psalm 73 – Moving Towards Trust

Psalm 73:1-2

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.

Psalm 73:3-5

For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
They have no struggles;

their bodies are healthy and strong.
They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.

Psalm 73:15-16

If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply.

Psalm 73:17

Till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

Trust is moving towards God even when everything seems stacked against you.