

Compass Bearing #9
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
“When You Don’t Know”
Saturday, April 11, 2020

Today is Holy Saturday, the day that Jesus’ body laid in the tomb. The day before he was crucified on the cross. The next day he rose from the dead. But on Saturday, Jesus’ body was in the tomb. No stirring. No earthquakes. No stone being rolled away. Just Roman soldiers guarding the quiet tomb.

We are blessed to know the end of the story. When someone proclaims, “Christ is risen!” we can confidently respond, “He is risen, indeed!” But the first followers of Jesus didn’t know what we know. The Bible describes them as trembling, bewildered, tearful, and so afraid that they hid behind locked doors (see Mark 16:8; John 20:11, 19). It may appear that the disciples lacked faith and courage, but they didn’t know how things would turn out.

What do you do when you don’t know? We are in such a time right now. We simply don’t know what will happen tomorrow. Literally. One month ago today my Dad’s nursing home was locked down. The next day March Madness was canceled. A few days after that the Compass Church went to online worship only. Yes, that was just one month ago! It seems like six months, doesn’t it? Nope, it was just one month ago.

But here’s the truth: a month and a week ago, we didn’t know what was coming. And right now, we don’t really know what will happen next month, or even next week. So what do you do when you don’t know? Jesus gave us some good advice for times such as this:

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?... ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:25-34)

That last verse is the zinger. Read it again. Out loud. Slowly. Now read the whole passage again. Release your worries to your heavenly Father. Seek his kingdom. Seek his righteousness. Trust God, even when you don’t know.

Prayer: Father in heaven, I trust you for this moment. I release worry to your capable hands. Even though I don’t know what is coming my way tomorrow, or next week, or next month I place my confidence in your kingdom and your righteousness to cover me. In life, Just as Jesus did, I put my faith in you in death, in life beyond death.