

Easter Thursday 09/04/26

And so the mystery of our journey into Easter deepens. The tussle between belief and unbelief goes on, the tussle that is between the good and the evil that is in all of us, the mystery of being human, of being both flesh and spirit, where the battle between good and evil plays out but with the body emphatically not to be seen as the cause of evil, indeed it comes to be glorified.

The passage from Acts is an intensely theological construct, full of theological reflection on the disciples' experience of the Risen Christ but as incomplete in this respect as it is for all of us. I wonder indeed whether the disciples are not witnessing to their own past surprise and ignorance of God's ways as they say to the people:

"Why are you so surprised at this? Why are you staring at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or holiness?"

and again when they say, with regard to Christ's death:

"Neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing."

They've now come to an understanding but only after sharing the people's fear and ignorance that led some of them to hide in an upper room and others to flee to Emmaus, to first visualise Jesus as a ghost on his reappearance, to test his reality in some way, to doubt, like Thomas, that he was both body and spirit. What we see in these accounts is a degree of certitude which can mar our own journey to faith, the journey into God which Easter proclaims. A truer witness might be one where each day we struggle to rediscover Christ in our own lives, to know that body and soul are not at odds with each other, that a resurrected life is possible. We struggle in short to love and in that knowledge know our need of God. Begin there and the rest will follow.

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