

Children of the Resurrection

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Faith is a verb! As a teacher of English, I am acutely aware of language – how it is used, when it is used, who is using it, where they are using it, what words are being used and why they are using them. This is called context. This is part of critical literacy. Words are powerful. Language is capital, the kind of capital that can afford you a place at the table or keep you from even getting in the front door.

If we look at the word faith, and think of it as a verb, which comes from the Latin word “fidem” – to trust, we can say, I faith God. I faith you. In other words, in order to have “faith” the noun, we must have “faith or trust” the verb.

The Sadducees in the Gospel story do not have faith. Their actions are proof enough. They are like the cool group at the high school dance who have all the cool clothes, cool cars, cool cellphones, but have no connection to anything or anyone. The Sadducees are out to trip up Jesus. They want to bully him into saying or doing something that will tarnish the charisma, “a divinely conferred gift of power,” Jesus exudes. Their attempt doesn’t work.

Jesus is aware of what they are doing and why.

The theologian, Fredrick Buechner wrote, "Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is an on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going but going anyway. A journey without maps."

Jesus was going to a place that had not been dreamed of before. He was asking his followers to travel the road of life down a path that for so many feels dark, strange, and scary. What he is telling them in the temple, is that by faithing him, they would have the Light that will guide them through life.

If we continued reading this chapter, we would learn that Jesus goes on to warn the disciples to be wary of the scribes who wear their beautiful robes and say long prayers in front of others after stealing the homes of widows. His warning is a warning for our day as well.

Today, there are people who appear to have "it all" – fame, fortune, and friends. Yet, when we look deeper, these same people have lives of pain and suffering just like the rest of us.

Faith as a verb is what make us children of the resurrection. Faithing Jesus - following his example, practicing his teachings, sharing his Love with the world – shines a Light so bright in our life that no matter how dark the storm gets, we can still find our way. Author, Mehmet Murat ildan, wrote “The most precious light is the one that visits you in your darkest hour!” which reiterates what Jesus has told us. Or, to paraphrase what Roy Bennett wrote in *Light in the Heart* - when we light a candle during the darkest moment of someone’s life, that light gives life its deepest significance.

Being children of the resurrection, if we take the word resurrection literally, means that we are the children “who rise again.” Rising again by faithing that Love is the Way. Rising again, after we fall, faithing that Love’s Light will see us through. Rising again, as the Son, “S-O-N” rises, to love one another as siblings who understand that faith is a verb of action that must be practiced daily.

Blessings to all. Amen.