

Day 70 – May 5

Happy Cinco de Mayo, friends!

As we read through Jehu's destruction of both Ahab's line and Baal worship today, it is yet another large dose of extreme violence, not uncommon in their day but nauseatingly upsetting to our more delicate sensibilities today. And God applauds Jehu's work. This is difficult and brings up some difficult questions: How do we reconcile this God who applauds such violence with the pacifist Jesus? How do we continue to defend against our culture's accusations of violence from Christianity throughout history? These questions have been asked, answered, and debated for a very long time. And there are a whole lot of other questions that are difficult for us to answer, and sometimes even to comprehend.

So what do you do with questions about faith? Some of us feel we need to have answers for all of our questions, even if they feel unsatisfactory. Some of us give in to the questions and allow them to harm our faith, tempted to turn away from God because we don't have all the answers. And still others turn away from the questions themselves, never asking them, avoiding texts that lead to them, and in this missing an important growth tool God gives us.

God's first interaction with us revolved around questions: "Where are you?" "Did you eat the fruit I said to leave along?" "Where is your brother?" He continued this throughout His interactions with us, from Job to Moses to Elijah just last week ("What are you doing here, Elijah?") And Jesus continued this questioning throughout His ministry with us. In fact, a quick Google search reveals that Jesus asked 307 questions in the gospels, and was asked 183 of which He only answered 3. It seems that God is in the business of questions far more than answers.

If Jesus only chose to answer 3 out of 183 questions posed to Him, do you think He is unhappy when we have unanswered questions about God? In this age when every question can be answered by a Google search or an AI like Alexa or Siri, maybe part of our counter-cultural faith is to sit with hard questions WITH GOD instead of heading out on our own to seek answers alone. It seems to me God would rather be present in our confusion than absent in our quest for answers.