

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message

April 5, 2026. ***“What do you want? questions that question us”***. ***“Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”***

I Intro.

Today is Easter– Resurrection Sunday. All the ‘churched’ people will know how to respond. *“He is risen”*...and of course it’s...*“He is risen indeed”*. We’re glad you’ve chosen to use this resource. You’ll want to keep up with everything that’s happening at NCC. Stay connected through our social media to keep up with everything that’s going on. This is our companion devotional to Sunday’s message. It’s just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don’t want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We’re encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are fully committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

II Sunday.

On Good Friday, in a powerfully solemn, reflective service, we remembered the crucifixion of Jesus. Now we celebrate a resurrected Christ. We asked the question ***“What do you want?”*** ***“Why are you here?”*** This is what Jesus asked a couple of the disciples of John the Baptist, who left following John, and started following Jesus. They were interested in spiritual things, trying to find answers to THEIR questions. Seeking something real. Some sort of truth, that could help them. Times were tough, they were struggling, just trying to make it through life.

Does this connect in any way?

On this Easter, resurrection Sunday– I want to ask you the question Jesus asked those seekers.

What do you want? What’s interesting about this particular passage in the first chapter of John, is that the two disciples of John didn’t answer that question. They didn’t know what they wanted.

We’re searching, trying to find some answers that can help us. But we’re not really sure what we’re searching for. Or that we would even know it when we found it. We feel the void, emptiness as we go through our life, just searching for something. And we’re finding everything we’re chasing after to find contentment, happiness, is what Ecclesiastes called *“meaningliness”* *“morning vapor”*.

And the response of Jesus to his question... *“Read this 7 volume series on theology and then we can be in relationship.”* Nope– Jesus just said to them; ***“Come and you will see.”***

So, the answer to the question; ***“What do you want?”*** is only ***“Come and see.”***

Today’s specific question is; ***“Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”***

I want to make sure we give grace to this question; *“Why are you crying?”* Our inability to make things make sense, to figure out what we want, can be an emotional journey. You may be experiencing the same sense of lostness, lack of direction the early followers did. Early that Easter Sunday morning. No one was expecting to find what they found. Friday was their worst day EVER! And it seemed like it was the end of everything they had hoped for. Everything they had put their trust in had come to a

tragic end. Which I know you can relate to. You thought your life was going in a specific direction, you had plans— LOTS of plans. And life intervened. Knocked you off course. And you didn't have any back up plans for that. Now you're searching for a new direction, something, or someone to help guide you to this new direction. Because this question fits our foundational question.

“Who are you looking for?” so fits ***“What do you want?”***

John 20:11-15a. Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

The followers of Jesus thought they had found the answer to all their problems. Amazing miracles to heal sickness, free food to satisfy hunger, unlimited power to protect them. That all fell apart on that Friday. The one they thought was going to save their dreams, bring about the life they felt they had been promised, was killed— but is now alive?! This forced them to ask; ***What do we do now?***

So, the question for this Easter. ***Who are you looking for?***

Those earlier followers of Jesus were looking for the one who promised them this life of healing, wholeness, peace, and salvation. Being saved from their own tendency to mess things up. To be rescued. Something to give their lives meaning and purpose. That's why many of us gather regularly on Sundays. We're looking for the same thing. Many of us believe this story is integral to our devotion, dedication to following Jesus. Looking to Jesus to help us find what can bring meaning, purpose, and contentment. The church exploded for hundreds of years because they believed the resurrection was real. And that truth brought meaning and significance to their lives that nothing else could do. We believe this also. Those of us who call NCC home are absolutely committed to the belief, and continual practice we serve a God who is alive, active in our world, and wants a specific life for us. We are always learning, practicing, and growing as much as we can in our following Jesus. We haven't mastered it. We still mess up. Some of us a lot. (No names of course) We gather regularly to try to figure things out, and to learn and practice more. And we'd love for you to join us on this journey. Even if it may be virtually. You're still family.

We're not asking you to believe everything we believe. You're reading this, because you want something specific for your life. You may not know, understand, aren't at a place to wrap your mind around all of this... yet. That's perfectly fine. Every person here is on the same journey.

IV Challenge.

If you can connect to our first question; ***“What do you want?”*** Our answer is the same as Jesus told those first followers of John the Baptist. Just ***“Come and see.”***

Then you will definitely want to join us this month as we follow this path to the other questions Jesus asked. Especially today's question; ***“Who are you looking for?”*** If you're looking for something, someone, some guidance, direction, insight, some crumb of truth that can help you in life, then this month is for you. The questions Jesus asked will help guide us to this promise of life, salvation, a full life, meaning, purpose, peace, and hope that he gave those followers 2,000 years ago. But now it's Easter...and we celebrate our God is alive!! HE IS RISEN... HE IS RISEN INDEED.