

Study questions for home and group, March 29

One can read the whole chapter, but the focus this week begins at verse 28

There are no ice breaker questions, but it's worth checking in after this week.

What were people's highs and lows? How are people doing?

1. A crowd gathers round Mary (not Jesus' mom) to comfort her in her grief.
 - a. Whom are you comforting during this time?
 - b. Who is comforting you?
 - c. How has your faith or your faith community comforted you during this time?
 - d. Do you feel your own grief is allowing you to empathize better with other's grief; or do you feel too overwhelmed to feel what others are feeling?

2. The Greek is emphatic here. Jesus is deeply agitated seeing the grief of Mary and the others. He "loses it."
 - a. What set you off this last week? I think we all had a moment in this last week when this happened.
 - b. Does it bring you comfort that Jesus weeps here?
 - c. Do you think it reflects Jesus divine or human nature that he weeps? Is Jesus fully human or fully divine when he weeps?
 - d. Why do you think the man who claimed, in verse 25 "I am the resurrection and life" is now crying over death?

3. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.
 - a. Jesus fulfills his word. He is the resurrection and life. Where in this time of anxiety and grief are you experiencing resurrection and life? Or does it remain an unfulfilled, yet hoped for word of promise?
 - b. Jesus commands the people to "unbind" Lazarus. This is an plural command for the community to help Lazarus
 - c. What does it say that even a man whom Jesus saved still needed others to be free?
 - d. How are you experiencing community in this time of separation?