

## **Questions from Holy Habits**

### **Holy Week: Holy Monday to Easter Day**

#### **Holy Monday: Jesus' prayerful anger Luke 19: 45-48**

1. Is it surprising to see Jesus angry? What does this story teach us about the nature of righteous anger?
2. In what ways do we see greed replacing godliness? What are the consequences of greed today?
3. For whom do we need to get angry? Who in our workplace/community/world is being exploited? How could we speak up for them?
4. As a church or group, what spaces do we provide for others – particularly those who are not at the centre of our fellowship?
5. **For reflection:**  
Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Invite the Holy Spirit to show you which parts of your life need cleansing this week.

#### **Holy Tuesday: Jesus' teaching on tax Luke 20: 20-26**

1. As a society, do you think we pay too little or too much tax?
2. Might paying more tax enable the manifesto of Jesus to be more fully realised? (Luke 4: 16-19) And what about our offerings? If we were able, how would giving more enable the things Jesus said he came to do to be done more abundantly today?
3. What do we think Jesus meant by giving to God the things that are God's? What part does money play in this, and what else might be involved?
4. What model of giving do you feel most closely fits the attitude and teaching of Jesus? Notice Jesus says a lot about attitudes and nothing about percentages!
5. When deciding what to give in offerings, should you work off your gross (pre-tax) income or net (after-tax) income? Does it matter?
6. **For reflection:**  
Do we pay our taxes with gladness and generosity or with grumbling and reticence? Do we see paying tax as a way of blessing others or a necessity?

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### **Holy Wednesday: Jesus the humble servant Luke 20: 45-47**

1. What does this story say to us about leadership?
2. What do you feel Christlike leadership looks or feels like?
3. The trappings and trophies of some leadership roles can be very seductive. How can we, and those leaders for whom we pray, remain humble and grounded?
4. Is it right to give leaders 'places of honour'?
5. Here and elsewhere, Jesus is not keen on showy prayers. Are there any tips here about how to pray in public?
6. **For reflection:** If you have a leadership role at work, at church or in another organisation, how do you lead? How does this text and the example of Jesus as a leader in Holy Week challenge and inspire you?

### **Maundy Thursday: Jesus breaking bread Luke 22: 14-20**

1. How does the example of Jesus giving the bread and wine to those who will deny and betray him challenge us?
2. **For reflection: Dwell with the words of Jesus.**
  - a. Imagine what he must have felt breaking the bread and pouring the wine, knowing that very soon his body would be mutilated and his blood poured out. We get a sense of how he felt a little later in his painful prayer in Gethsemane.
  - b. And then notice the words 'for you'. Hold those and allow the significance of them to impact them afresh.
  - c. Quietly offer your own prayerful response to the significance of Jesus' words.

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#### **Good Friday: Jesus' ultimate generosity Luke 23: 26-43**

1. When we hear the phrase 'gladness and generosity', our first thought may be of some celebratory occasion. What light does Luke's account of the crucifixion bring to an understanding of generosity?
2. 'Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing'; how do these words of extraordinary generosity challenge any petty grudges that we can easily cling to?
3. Is forgiveness always possible or appropriate?
4. What insights does the interchange between Jesus and the penitent thief give us to help our calling to make more disciples for Jesus?
5. **For reflection:**  
Who has inspired you by the way they have been gracious and generous in the midst of their own suffering?  
What about them inspired you in particular?

#### **Holy Saturday: Jesus in the tomb Luke 23: 50-56**

1. Why do you think God apparently did nothing on Holy Saturday?
2. How easy is it for us just to be still?
3. In the immediate aftermath of bereavement or tragedy, how does/might stillness help?
4. Is there a risk that Christian discipleship can be too activist – too much about doing things – even practising godly things like holy habits?
5. Are Sundays too busy?
6. How might we build rest and stillness into a faithful and fruitful discipleship rhythm of life?
7. **For reflection:**  
Spend 10-15 minutes in silence pondering the text 'Be still, and know that I am God!' (Psalm 46:10)

#### **Easter Day: Jesus worthy of all worship Luke 24: 36-53**

1. How could we be renewed in worship as a group/church?
2. How could we be renewed personally in worship day by day?