

TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

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Asking Questions That Have Already Been Answered

01

Tim Dilena

The resurrection of Jesus is the most monumental event in human history. It is Jesus' announcement in power that He is Who He said He was. His bodily resurrection put an exclamation point on everything He said for those 3 years He was on earth. Something that remarkable will overshadow the minute details of the resurrection morning. I recently saw one of those overshadowed details in Scripture that I have read over for years. I was astounded that I missed it. It was a group of women asking questions that had already been answered. Two Marys showed up on resurrection morning to anoint Jesus' body and bring spices for the so-called corpse. Of course, they did not expect the miracle of resurrection. Their vision was skewed and narrowed because they didn't expect that miracle. You will see it as the women visit the empty tomb.

Mark 16:1–4 (NASB) 1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

The question the women were asking had already been answered, but their short-sightedness couldn't see the answer in front of them. The women asked, "Who will roll away the stone for us?" I wanted to shout when I read it and say, "Ladies, the stone is rolled away. Just look!" THEY NEVER LOOKED UP, THEY ONLY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER. Verse 4 says it wasn't until they looked up, that they realized what they were asking for was already done for them.

“ **When you don't believe big with God, then you see small.** ”

When you don't believe big with God, then you see small. Mary and Mary saw small. And because they saw small, they asked things of people that God already had taken care of. Instead of living with anticipation and expectation, they reduced their faith to only corpse management. They missed the bigger job that God had prepared for them.

“When you don’t see what God wants you to see, you end up doing things God did not ask you to do.”

ASKING QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ANSWERED (CONTINUED)

TIM DILENA

WHEN YOU DON'T SEE WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO SEE, YOU END UP DOING THINGS GOD DID NOT ASK YOU TO DO. God had another assignment for these women. They thought they were in the funeral and stone removal business. Their lack of faith in the resurrection almost derailed them from the role they were to play for the resurrection morning. Remember how God was going to use these two female voices?

Mark 16:6–7 (NASB) 6 He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples.

Mary and Mary were to be the first evangelists. Their job was to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen, not be in the stone removal business.

What a challenge for us today. What are you facing that you need God to intervene in? What tomb are you standing in front of, that you have already brought the spices to and signed the death certificate over for? Today may be an important day for you to look

up! To cease looking at people and start looking at God. You may have taken on the role of a funeral director when God wants you to be His evangelist and speak about the miracle of resurrection.

Before you sign the divorce papers, before you leave the job because of a toxic work environment, before you give up and say I will never have a baby, my womb is barren, before you settle on loneliness the rest of your life and say no one will ever love me, look up! Don't put the spices on your situation yet. Stones may have already been moved, and you just didn't see them. When the women asked "Who will roll away the stone?" their "who" was a little "w" because they were thinking of people. Let's make the "W" a capital and let's remove the question mark. Instead of asking "Who will roll away the stone?" let's declare today "God is able to resurrect my situation!"

Stop asking questions and let's make some praise declarations.

It's time to renew the evangelist in you to declare the good news that God is able.

Summit Online Enrichment Courses Have Arrived

02

Summit International School of Ministry

Two years ago, after much prayer and consideration, Summit launched a series of online enrichment courses. Our heartfelt desire was to extend our reach to those eager to delve deeper in the word of God but who may have limited time or resources to invest in the full in-person Summit experience.

The response to our initial "pilot" launch was incredible! The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, as people expressed their genuine appreciation for both the format and content of our courses. Careful consideration went into designing courses tailor-made for a virtual learning environment that are both comprehensive and accommodating to busy schedules.



We are delighted to announce that Summit now offers two enrichment course options, making our curriculum even more accessible to those who want it.

Teacher Package: This package includes additional resources and tools for your Small Group, Christian School, Homeschool Group, Personal Bible Study, and more.

Student Package: This package is designed for individuals looking to get a taste of Summit courses virtually. Our newest enrichment courses cover a broad range of topics centered on three core themes: Bible, Theology, and Ministry. Each class is designed to appeal to a wide spectrum of learning levels, tackling complex concepts in a way that is easy to comprehend.

Here's a quick peak at our Fall 2023 Enrichment Courses:

Armed With Iron: Preparing for and Responding to Spiritual Battles: This course on spiritual warfare will cover 16 characters in the Bible who lived and triumphed with power and victory over hatred, enemies, hypocritical people, loss of a spouse, failure, personal compromise, demonic oppression, family burdens, and a host of other seemingly impossible obstacles.

Leadership Development: This course addresses personal and spiritual formation methods and analyzes strategies for better communication in ministry and the workplace.

Transformational Ministry: Personal, Missional, Congregational: The gospel at its core is a message of transformation. How does the individual believer experience the promise of transformation resident in the gospel message? How do communities and congregations experience the promise of transformation? This course will provide practical tools in these vital areas of ministry.

The Spirit of the Story: Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Whole Bible: There has never been a generation in which God's people did not need the power of His Spirit. The assertion of this course is that throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is often at the forefront of the divine work to advance the Kingdom of God against the powers of evil.

We look forward to engaging with Summit learners in more ways than ever before! For more information about our online learning opportunities visit summitpa.org/oec

Glory to Glory

03

Ricardo Sanchez

"Moving" can sometimes be a daunting word. For some it might evoke excitement and for others, maybe it represents a season of the "unknown". As my family and I have been in the process of physically moving to New York and Times Square Church, the Lord has been impressing on me the word CHANGE. The Bible says in Corinthians 3:18 that we are transformed from "glory to glory" as we move towards the likeness of Christ. Sometimes GLORY is a hard place to leave, and, yet, we are called to pursue the leading of the Holy Spirit. I believe the tendency for some people is to stay in the "comfort zone" of what is known and what is SAFE. But, as Christ-followers, we are beckoned to live beyond the comfort zone. A season of "change" doesn't always make sense and it can evoke criticism by onlookers as illogical or simply crazy, but the walk of faith REQUIRES, of those brave enough to follow, a pure hearted obedience of simplistic trust. The Bible is a succession of stories demonstrating CHANGE from the Garden of Eden to the Return of Christ. A similar pattern can be seen through the Bible when there is a pressing towards CHANGE.



The phases of CHANGE can be identified in three seasons: 1.THE CALL 2.THE QUESTION and the 3.THE COMMITMENT.

Every season of change begins with accepting THE CALL...it can simply be defined as obedience. However, you must stay vigilant because as surely as you answer the call with obedience, you will be challenged with THE QUESTION. In some shape, form, or fashion, your decision of obedience will be challenged and you will be tempted to QUESTION the step of faith you made. However, the final step in the season of CHANGE is

COMMITMENT. Commitment to what God told you to do and the faithful pursuit towards the obedient decision you made.

The walk of faith is exciting and full of opportunity to watch God's faithfulness in full display. Whatever season God has you in, remember what the Bible says in Psalms 32:8, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Glory might be a tough place to leave, but, remember... there will be Glory on the other side. Trust the process.



TSC Women

04

On Saturday, October 28th, 1300 women gathered in person, along with an additional 700 online for the 2023 Women's Gathering themed "Blessed is She." The event centered around fellowship, praise & worship, a message from CeCe Winans and a thought-provoking Q&A with Cindy Dilena and CeCe that centered around Cece's personal life and ministry. The chosen theme drew inspiration from that incredible biblical moment when Elizabeth and Mary met, and the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb jumped for joy at Mary's greeting and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

The gathering held a significant spiritual impact as women sought the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. In this pursuit, the church

sanctuary was filled with a palpable sense of God's presence and anointing. CeCe's message resonated around the theme of belief and promise fulfillment.

An impactful element of the event was the distribution of anointing oil as a gift to attendees, giving them the understanding that they are never alone, that God is with them, and has given them the power of the Holy Spirit to pray over their homes and families at any time.

TSC Women's Ministry is planning for a women's event in 2024. Stay attuned for further details.