

Today's Message: "Reasonable Doubt"

The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man, the roles are quite reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock. Man is quite a kindly judge; if God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty, and disease, he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that man is the judge and God is the accused."

— C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics

*<sup>1</sup> We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago. <sup>2</sup> With your hand you drove out the nations and planted our ancestors; you crushed the peoples and made our ancestors flourish. <sup>3</sup> It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them... <sup>9</sup> **But now** you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies. (Psalm 44:1-3, 9, NIV)*

*<sup>1</sup> "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets... <sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness... <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."... <sup>14</sup> "For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. **But now**, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant... <sup>16</sup> I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. <sup>17</sup> But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame. (Isaiah 42, TNIV)*

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Pastor Doug Melder

May 2 & 3, 2015

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<sup>23</sup> And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. (Matthew 21:23-27, ESV)

<sup>1</sup> And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. <sup>4</sup> An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed. (Matthew 16:1-4, ESV)

<sup>8</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?" <sup>9</sup> Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? <sup>10</sup> Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? (Matthew 16:8-10, ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13, ESV)

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