



Fr. Matt's Musings

August 5, 2017

During my seminary days, I believed that all of my questions about God and faith were answered. Since those days, I find that all my answers are being questioned.

(Bill Moyers)

The once Baptist minister and then journalist and host of a popular PBS series on the Bible and faith gave this answer in response to a question from Terry Gross in a recent interview on her radio show *Fresh Air*. This refreshingly honest assessment of the faith journey is a reminder that our life of faith is primarily the belief in our loving and saving God and especially in God's Son, Jesus Christ, and the growth of a loving relationship with Him. It is also a deep trust in His promises: of eternal life for those who believe in Him, that love is the greatest commandment, to be with us until the end of time, and that the cross is real and present in the lives of all of us.

There is no doubt that faith contains a series of tenets. These are found in our Scriptures. Also, the most often repeated tenets of our faith that are not directly quoted in the Scriptures are found in our profession of faith at the celebration of Sunday Mass, the Creed. It helps us to understand better the nature of the God in whom we believe, but it can never replace our call to an intimate, loving, and ongoing relationship with that God. If not, what happens when we begin to question the tenets of our faith as so many of us come or will come to do throughout our lifetime?

The first disciples show us that the life of faith is frequently marked by times of confusion, doubt, misunderstanding, questions, and even failure. Yet their faith in the person of Jesus and their desire to love Him, to know Him more fully, and to imitate Him in their lives is the gift that they pass on to us in our own faith journeys. No one can predict the timing nor the content of our questions, doubts, or uncertainties. One thing is certain. Our loving Savior wants us to trust in Him and His love and to continue to seek Him as Lord and Savior at all of the moments of our lives. This is part of the meaning of St. Francis de Sales' statement, "Let us strive to love the God of all consolations and not just the consolations of God." May Jesus continue to live in our hearts and lives.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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