

“Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin”

Daily Meditation for April 2, 2021

Recently Connie and I read an email currently being circulated around the Internet. It is an article we had seen before, probably a decade ago.

The story, “Why did Jesus fold the napkin?” It is based on the account of the Resurrection of Jesus, in St. John 20:7. It specifies some detail, of St. John’s telling of the events on that first Easter Sunday morning. With only a portion of the verse being provided, we did some internet research, on the subject of “the folded *napkin*”.

We found that in the King James version of the Bible, the text reads: “And the *napkin*, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.”

In the New International Version, the text reads: “as well as the *cloth* that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.”

We were unaware of the controversy there is regarding this story, until we kept finding different articles on the subject. Here is some of the interesting stuff (in part) we reviewed; some old, some new.

The meaning of St. John; 20:7 was to convey that the napkin, placed over Jesus’ head at burial, was separate from the rest of His grave clothes.

“What is the significance of the folded napkin in Christ’s empty tomb, after His resurrection?” A Jewish custom in that time, we are told, is that a master would let his servants know if he was finished eating, or coming back to the table, by the way he placed his napkin. If he tossed it aside, he was done, and if he folded it, he was not finished and would return.

In the tomb, of The Resurrection, Jesus laying his “napkin” aside, neatly folded, was perceived as Jesus saying, “I am coming back”.

The controversy surrounds the interpretation, and/or the translation of the verse. Also, the so called “Hebrew tradition, regarding folded napkins” was reported as being completely unknown, to Jewish historians. Is this story something that someone just made up; it is a possibility, but it does generate some thought.

Was the article worth our time to read and do research? Yes, we believe so. During our research, we learned, a new word, *Verity*, new for us anyway. Definition of verity: 1: the quality or state of being true or real, 2: something (such as a statement) that is

true especially: a fundamental and inevitably true value such eternal verities as faith, honour, love.

We found that there are many Verities in the Bible, ones we have always known about in our faith journey. Jesus was crucified. He died to save us from our sins. They placed our Lord in a sealed tomb. The folded napkin was evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the third day, He overcame death, He arose from the dead. **2 Corinthians 5:7**, "For we live by faith, not by sight."

Faith is the fuel of the Christian life. Jesus Christ is "Not Finished." He will return.

The Bottom line, the significance of "the folded Napkin" if there is any, is unknown! The story of the tradition of the folded napkin may or may not have had any significance. For us, this has been a good way to review the Holy Week gospel.

John 28;14 - You heard me say, "I am going away and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

We remember Jesus' sacrifice. Give thanks for what he brought to our world.

Wishing you a blessed and holy Easter.

Stay Home - Stay safe – Stay positive - Trust in God.

Connie & Terry McCoy – St. Peter's Sauble.