

I admit it. I have a secret passion for wisdom passages in the bible. You know—those parts of the bible that tell us about what we don't know, can't know, mystery... Didn't used to be that way. I used to want to have it all spelled out for me, because I wanted to understand everything.

But I wanted absolute clarity: I wanted things this way or that way, black and white. Things were either right or they were wrong. People did either this or that to be saved. Jesus' resurrection meant THIS, not THAT.

You know what I'm talking about—dualistic thinking.

Dualistic thinking is not bad- it's a great starting place. It is used heavily to teach us in school. It comes from the ancient Greek system of logic—and it can be helpful in helping us develop critical thinking.

Within the sphere of logic there is the Law of Identity and the Law of non-contradiction. How many learned this in school?

If $A=A$, then A cannot be B. A cannot be both A and B at the same time. But there are many things in life that can't be explained by logic: infinity, love, death, freedom, and God. There logic fails us.

If there is any group that should have been able to go beyond Greek dualistic logic, it should have been the Christians. Why? Because of the Trinity. A does not equal B or equal C, but A and B and C are the same. Paradox. Sometimes dualistic thinking doesn't work. Sometimes logic fails us.

And how will we be able to fully understand infinity, love, death, freedom or God if we persist in thinking that there is only THIS or THAT answer. We need to become comfortable with mystery, and paradox.

*"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, **he does not know how.**"*

Mystery. The kingdom of God gets scattered around and then it just kind of grows..and Jesus is telling us we will never understand completely how it happens. But..wait, it must be a logical process--- or at least one that makes sense to us. Must it?

And then we slowly begin to see that many of things Jesus taught and did can be understood in many different ways. Jews are not dualistic thinkers.

Does that startle us? Even scare us?

Why, do you think? I'll just assume here that all of us realize deep down that we are merely human beings, and we cannot fully understand what God tries to show us.

Why? Because are uncomfortable with Paradox.

God's kingdom seems to be full of things that should act one way—but in fact do the opposite—look at the mustard seed! It's a tiny seed, so it should make a tiny plant, right?

Seeds should only germinate in great soil—but we've all seen flowers that seem to be growing out of solid rock!

The world is full of things we may never understand.

Perhaps this is why we are scatterers of the seed.

It would be hubris to believe that we are responsible for everything that happens to the seed, or that we are the thing that fertilizes the growing shoots, or that we are the gardener that prunes.

Sometimes our ego likes to think we are all those things, but are we? Yes! No! Sometimes! Occasionally! Sometimes it all of those things at once! Paradox. It's an amazing thing.

Let us revel in the fact that God made us curious, made us questioning, and breaks open our persistent dualism by being Trinity. That paradox of God's being allows us to have brief flashes of insight into infinity, death, freedom and God.

And most importantly: love. That's the one thing I am absolutely certain of: God loves us. God forgives us. And we may never really know how or why any more than we know how the kingdom will grow next. But it is enough.

Amen.