

The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday has been difficult to discuss theologically. When we try to assign a “why” or a “what” to the day we often come up short.

- Jesus certainly did not need the extra time to accomplish his goals because he, God the Son, can do whatever he needs to do in ways unhindered by time or space.
- Jesus probably was not waiting for the Sabbath to end because, in his prior ministry, he often demonstrated that God’s work does not stop on the Sabbath.
- Jesus most likely was not staying dead to prove he was actually dead. Both his opponents and his disciples were solidly convinced of his death on Friday evening. In fact, they needed to be convinced that he was truly alive after he finally arose.
- While prophecy is a consideration here, we also must remember that God is not constrained by prophecy. The prophecies regarding Jesus were not mandates given by the prophets for him to fulfill. Rather, the prophets merely foresaw what Jesus himself would choose to do.

Thus, for some reason which we cannot squarely ascertain, Jesus chose not to arise on Saturday. This may be rightly referred to as a “holy mystery.” While this may be perplexing for us, its not unusual for God. God is silent from time to time. Of course, his written word is always there to speak to us but God’s intervening power and extraordinary activity does not often show up according to our schedule. Many of us have experienced times in own lives where, like the Saturday before Easter, God is silent. Jesus demonstrated this perplexing silence in his incarnation. He was known to sleep in the midst of storms, stop on his way to important events, and turn up late to healings and funerals.

The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday reminds us that we will experience silence in between mighty movements of God. In these times, our faith is not merely tested, our faith is absolutely necessary for us to hold on. Indeed, these ARE the times for which our faith is tested. In the difficult days before God demonstrates his power we must demonstrate our faith.

Even as we celebrate Easter Sunday, many may find their current situation resembles the Saturday before. Take courage in this: its not unusual for the people of God to pass through the Saturdays but there is always reason to hope for a better tomorrow.