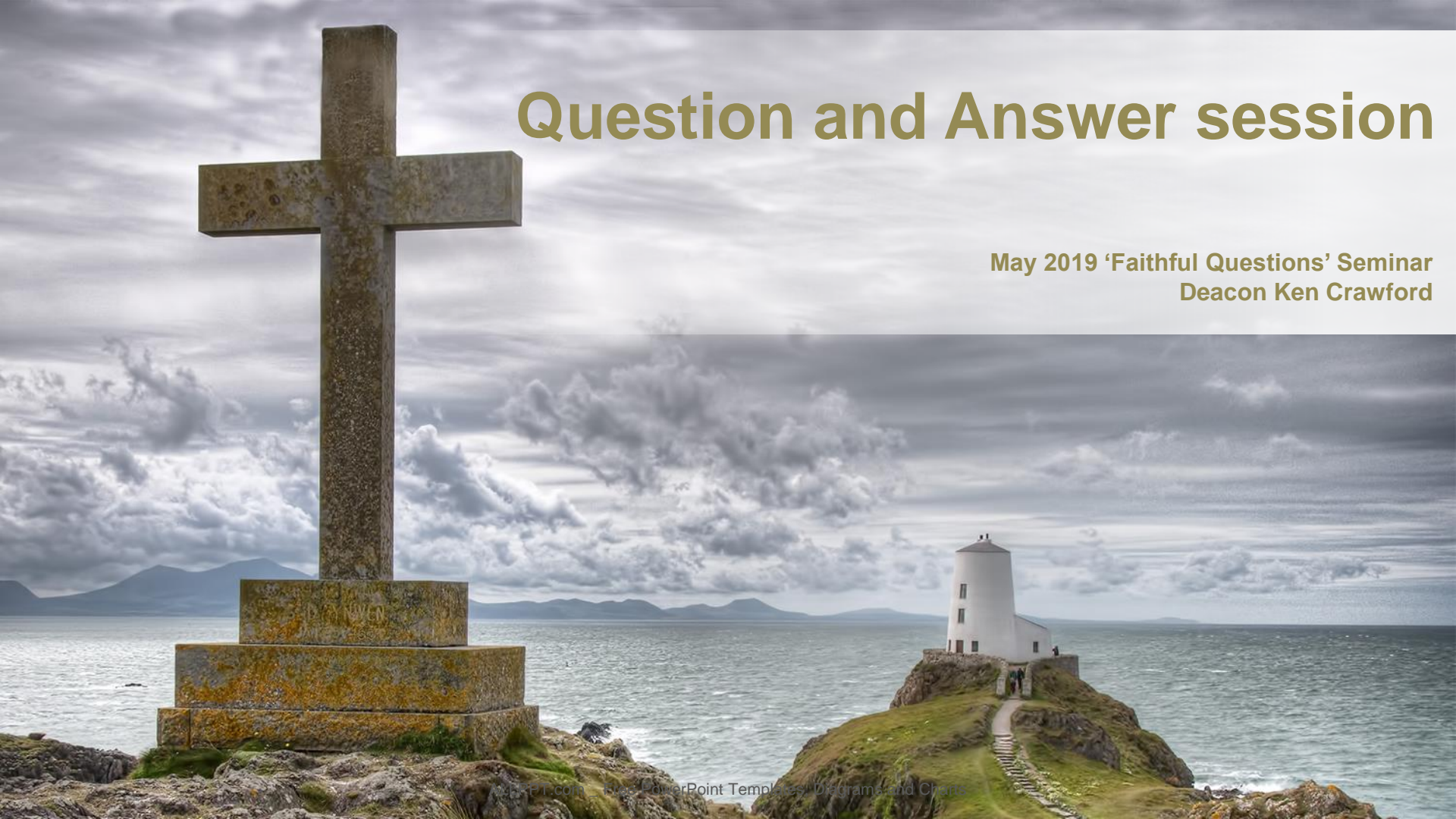


Question and Answer session

May 2019 'Faithful Questions' Seminar
Deacon Ken Crawford





YES!

(In other words, I'm
excited.)

Session overview

- What's the story with indulgences?
- Will we be re-united with loved ones in Heaven?
- Why is kneeling before a statue not worship?
- What is the belief about Purgatory?
- Where is Purgatory in the bible?
- Did Jesus have siblings?
- How do I defend a belief when there isn't much biblical support for it?
- Does the Church have original copies of the Gospels (or any scripture)?
- How much of gestures at Mass are optional?
- Are there ever going to be women priests?
- Does the Pope go to confession?
- Why do we have to confess to a priest?
- Saving for full session in Fall
 - Why does a loving God let bad things happen?
 - Walk-through of the Mass
 - How to balance accepting everyone with teachings that condemn certain behaviors



Indulgences

- Teaching (CCC 1471 – 1473):
 - Sin has 2 consequences
 - Temporal – Sin has “earthly” consequences
 - Eternal – Sin can separate us from God and thus potentially interfere with us going to Heaven
 - Confession forgives Eternal consequences but doesn’t remove temporal punishment
 - Indulgences can remove part or all of the temporal consequences of sin
- Always been the teaching



Indulgence excesses

- Martin Luther objected to “selling” of indulgences
 - Led to a Protestant wide rejection of them
- Council of Trent
 - Re-affirmed base teaching that they are real
 - But decreed “all evil gains for the obtaining of (indulgences) be wholly abolished”
 - To cement this, Pope Pius V made it against Church rules for any financial transaction to be involved in the granting of an indulgence



Reunited with loved ones

- We know far less about Heaven than many assume
- Can only go by scriptural clues
 - Luke 16: Rich man in hell can recognize people from their lives
 - 22 When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,
 - 23 and from the netherworld,* where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.
 - Mark 12: No marriage in heaven
 - 24 Jesus said to them, “Are you not misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God?”
 - 25 When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven.

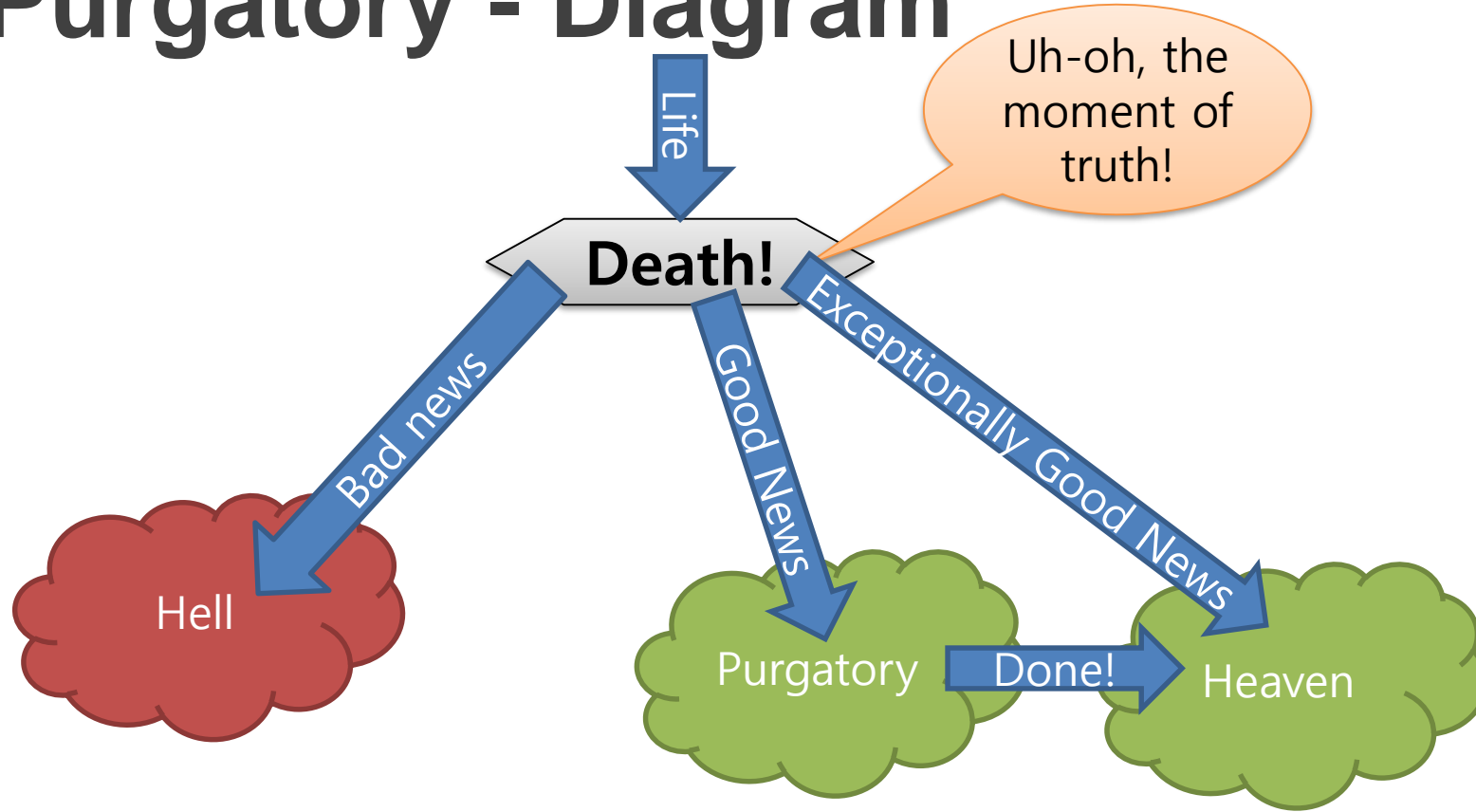


Statue worship

- We are accused of this often by various Protestant groups
- Use of statues and worship of statues are not the same thing
- Posture in front of statue is also irrelevant
- To worship a statue one would have to see the piece of wood/metal/stone as the thing worthy of worship
- Many examples of use of statues in bible
 - 2 statues on angels on Ark of Covenant
 - Various carved images on temple
 - Statue of serpent during 40 years in desert



Purgatory - Diagram



Purgatory – Catechism/Bible

- 1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.
- 1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire:
 - As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.
- 1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture:
 - "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (2nd Maccabees 12:46)



Jesus' siblings

- Mark 6:3: Is he not the carpenter,* the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.
- Church teaches Mary was a life-long virgin
 - This is a very ancient tradition and backed by scripture
- Possible explanations
 - Could have been Joseph’s children from prior marriage
 - Use of the word “brother” and “sister” may not have been biological children



Non-biblical teachings

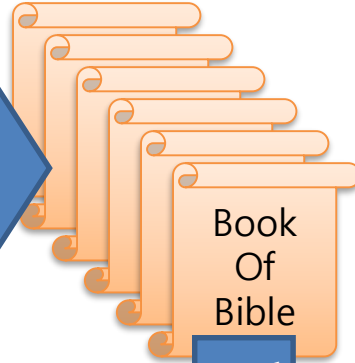
- Where does the bible come from?
 - The Church!



You're in charge



Write it down



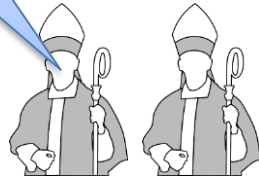
Book Of Bible

You're in charge



You're in charge

These ones



Which ones?

Original copies of Bible?

- Nope!
- Thousand year old parchment is pretty hard to maintain
- Oldest copies
 - Dead sea scrolls (Old Testament – 1st century)
 - Rylands Library Papyrus (Short fragment of Gospel of John – Early 2nd century)
 - Bodmer Papyrus (Most of Gospel of John – Early 3rd Century)



Optional gestures at Mass

- Far less than what you think in Mass is prescribed
 - Standing, Sitting, Kneeling? Yes
 - Priests and Deacons hand posture for each part? Yes
 - Holding hands? Nope
 - 3 crosses before Gospel? Nope
 - Genuflect on entering and exiting pew? Nope
 - Holy water before and/or after Mass? Nope
 - “And with your spirit” hands? Nope
 - Just about anything else: Nope



Women Priests

- No indication it will ever happen
- 1994 *Ordinatio Sacerotalis* (JP2):
 - Wherefore, in order that all doubt may be removed regarding a matter of great importance, a matter which pertains to the Church's divine constitution itself, in virtue of my ministry of confirming the brethren (cf. Lk 22:32) I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful.
- Reasons
 - Church OK with different roles for men and women
 - Christ chose only men for Apostles
 - Constant practice/teaching of Church
- Perhaps women deacons some day (less likely considered ordained)



Pope at confession



Why confess to a priest

- Scripture (John 20:22-23)
 - 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit.
 - 23 Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”
- Why?
 - Jesus told us to
 - We are an incarnational Church
 - So we know we are forgiven
 - Forgiveness is a gift



Next year

- It's time for a summer break!
- Future
 - Next year
 - 2nd Tuesdays
 - Starts September 10th, 2019
 - Currently slated for 7:30
 - Working on
 - Getting earlier in evening
 - Child-care
 - Always looking for suggestions for more topics
 - Interested in changes in style, format, etc. for next year
 - Considering more advice based sessions (as opposed to theological topics)



Materials

- <http://deaconken.org>
- Slides available on blog
- Check <http://deaconken.org/blog>
- Audio/Video may be available at a later date.

