

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Easter Day - March 31, 2024

*"And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed.
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him."*

- Mark 16:6 -

A boulder blocked the entrance to the tomb. It was sealed and Roman guards watched over it. There was no chance for tampering. The disciples were in hiding, afraid to show their faces to the world. They did not know what awaited them. If Jesus, who was so good and truthful, was dead, what must become of them? As morning approached, the women awakened to the sad task of preparing Jesus' body for permanent burial. They were surprised by what they saw. The tomb was empty.

What amazing love is this? Tears cloud our eyes when we hear the proclamation of the Gospel and sing the Alleluias in an atmosphere of brightly colored banners, sweet smelling flowers, and talented musicians. It is no wonder we become emotional on Easter Sunday. The emotion is a mixed bag: we regret our own failures and we rejoice that God loves us with a grace that is greater than any human can comprehend. We don't deserve His loving embrace, and yet Jesus reached out His hands to draw us into His heart for eternity. He lived, died, and rose again so that we might be saved. We are overcome with awe and thanksgiving.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! How will you respond to this good news? Will you be like the women who were afraid? Will you be like the disciples who did not believe the story? Will you be like Peter who had doubts but went to the tomb to see? Will you be like Mary who wept because the body of her Lord was missing? Will you hear His voice and believe?

This is a joyous time for Christians, but there are still those in our world who are afraid, who do not believe, and who continue to weep because they do not know the joy. This joy is part of the promise. Christ's death and resurrection give us life, not only in the future eternal promise, but also in the here and now. We are Easter people, not just on this Resurrection day, but every day. Today we can take a moment to experience the emotions that flood our hearts as we worship our amazing God and then go out into the world with that joy taking God's grace to those who still need to believe.

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