

REMEMBER HOW HE TOLD YOU!

Luke 24:1-8

TEXT: *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.*

In Jesus' name, fellow redeemed:

You drive by the house that once was filled with so much happiness, family noises and sounds, and you were part of it. Now it belongs to someone else because now your parents are gone.

You pick up your cell phone to touch the number labeled "Mom" but it's not going to work because Mom is gone. She's not going to be there for you anymore, and even though you are grown up with your own children, you can't believe that she's not going to be able to glean from her experience and wisdom ever again.

You wake up in the middle of the night, and that place beside you that once held life, a living, breathing love of your life, is vacant and cold. The pillow still carries the hope that her head will re-appear.

You come home from a work to a quiet house that looks exactly as it did when you left it early this morning. No longer is there going to be an answer when you say, "Honey, I'm home."

You stand with others who are peering into the casket of your loved one trying to offer well-meaning words of comfort and sympathy. "He looks good considering how he suffered this past year..." and, you politely accept their clumsy efforts to comfort you.

What if this were all we had?

The Bible says: *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" REMEMBER HOW HE TOLD YOU!*

The reality of death has a numbing power, doesn't it? We have all seen it and felt it in one degree or another. If you have not felt it's power, know that one day you will. Good Friday is meant to take us back to stand in the shoes of Jesus' mother, his brothers and sisters and his disciples. The women watched closely as Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea did the best that they could with the body of Jesus with the little time that they had before the Sabbath sundown turned out the lights. So early Sunday morning these women wanted to go first thing to the tomb to make sure that Jesus' body was given proper respect. They couldn't believe that Jesus was really dead and gone.

But when they got to the tomb, the stone was rolled away and Jesus body was gone! Jesus was now both dead AND gone! The Bible says: *While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ... "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, ... : 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" REMEMBER HOW HE TOLD YOU!* And this is the most important part: *Then they remembered his words.* This is why we are here today. It is to remember Jesus' most powerful words.

Words like: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.* Jn 11

Or like: *Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.* Jn 14

Or like: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are*

many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. Jn 14

Then there are those Christians who stared death in the eye and deeply felt it's pain and remembering God's Word declared: *Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!* Job 19

Men like Paul who assures us: *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Co 15

Today we feel death's pain and its sting but remember what our Lord has told us! But most importantly God help us remember and believe! *He is risen! Christ has risen indeed!* Amen.