



2025
Lenten
Devotional

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region


The Voice In The Silence

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 1 Kings 19:11-12 NRSV

Can any of you recall a time when there was "silent prayer" during the worship service? Even with the passage of time, I can still vividly remember the awkward silence when the pastor (my dad) would invite the congregation into a time of silent prayer just prior to his pastoral prayer. And while I never actually counted the seconds that seemed to pass like molasses, it honestly felt like FOREVER before any words were spoken. The time in between would start out quiet and reverent, but soon the fidgeting would begin, both children and adults alike.

I suppose there are a myriad of reasons for our innate aversion to silence or stillness. However, as we have seen in the above-mentioned passage, God's presence was not found in the noise. God's presence was found in the sheer silence. Only then could God's voice be heard.

As we journey through this Season of Lent, may we take this opportunity to still our hearts and quiet our minds. May we be mindful of how the Lord will show up in our lives in the most unexpected ways and the most unexpected circumstances. May we make allies and not adversaries with the silence and stillness, recognizing that more often than not it is the avenue through which we can hear the voice of God.



He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
1 Kings 19:11-12 NRSV



Melissa Newberry
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Spring Paint

Ash Wednesday

Every spring the Arapaho people participate in a ceremony commonly called, a “Spring Paint.” The Spring Paint is performed by an Arapaho spiritual leader at the beginning of spring. The purpose is for the people to put winter behind them and look forward to spring. The people were to put the deadness and struggles of winter behind them and look for to the lifegiving season of spring. It prepared the people for what the Creator had in store for the people. The specifically prepared paint was applied to the people and all who saw them understands what it meant.

Ash Wednesday begins the preparation for Easter. It marks a season of remembering the past, experiencing the present and looking forward to the future. Ash Wednesday is marked by remembering past regret and sadness. The ashes of Ash Wednesday come from the previous year palm leaves used for Palm Sunday. Scripture indicates that ashes were used as a sign of mourning. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 11:21 that true repentance can be accompanied with sackcloth and ashes. The ashes remind us that even though we have received Christ our journey will not be an easy one. We will experience difficulties along way like the deadness and struggles of winter.

Ash Wednesday is also marked by experiencing the present as we understand the constant need for Christ. Our need for Him was not a one and done. Colossians 2:6 tells us, “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.” Ash Wednesday is an occasion to examine ourselves as we transition from the past to the future. As we examine ourselves, we remember the words of Christ when He said those who are healthy have no need for a doctor. Our sin is a reminder of our daily need for a Savior.

Ash Wednesday points us to the future as we moving towards Easter. We not only remember the empty tomb but look forward to the hope the empty tomb brings. There is no Easter without a risen Christ. There is no hope of a future without a risen Christ. But the good news is Christ is risen.

Ash Wednesday prepares us for the promise of the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:20, “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who are asleep.” Death has been put behind us and we have newness of life, a life in Christ. We have an eternal future of unspeakable joy.

Every year the Arapaho people apply the paint on their face to remind them of the past lifeless winter and the future the lifegiving spring. The ashes of Ash Wednesday are applied to remind us of the lifeless life we once lived and the future eternal life we have with Christ. Whether we mark our foreheads with ashes or not, we are invited on a journey to Easter Sunday together. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this journey. Are you prepared for this season of renewal?



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Having A Heart That Knows God

First Sunday in Lent

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up, you know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do...Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life." -Psalm 139:1-3; 23-24, New Living Translation-

The Trappist monk Thomas Merton, wrote in his book *New Seeds of Contemplation*, "Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny...To work out our identity in God."

A common theme for me on Sundays, when acknowledging and invoking the presence of God into our time of worship, is to invite the Spirit to move in us, around us, and through us. The Apostle Paul told those gathered in Athens it is "in God we live and move and exist." (Acts 17:28, New Living Translation)

This season of Lent provides a time for us to reorient ourselves toward constant and continual contact with God while offering a reminder that, even with all that is going on in these troubled times, being grounded in God and oriented toward God is our most important goal. Remembering that God is working in us, through us, and around us grounds us in the comfort that God knows what we don't know and sees what we can't see.

Merton telling us "our vocation is not simply to be, but [it is] to work together with God," challenges us to partner with God in the creating of our lives—our identities—our destinies. In this time of Lent, are we not called to "work out our identity and our destiny in God?"

This writing of the Psalmist in Psalm 139 challenges us to being open to a God who examines us and knows us. I suggest that we cannot have a heart that knows God until we are willing to let God know us. We cannot become all we are meant to be unless we are willing to partner with God in the creation of our lives. When we acknowledge that God knows where we sit and where we stand, that God is continually aware of our thoughts, only then do we truly begin to know who we are—whose we are—and what were about.

I offer another passage from Psalm 51: 10-12 as a prayer of commitment for this Lenten Season. I encourage you to pray it thoughtfully and meditatively.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.
Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you." Amen.



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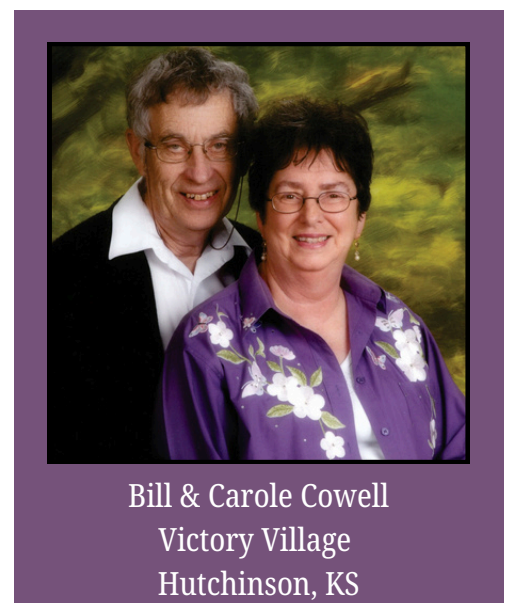
Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Second Sunday in Lent

As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, He began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from our eyes" (Luke 19:41, 42) How many of us really understand and share Jesus' passion for peace? It's easy to excuse ourselves and our lack of interest in peacemaking by quoting Jesus' words that there will be wars and rumors of wars. However, He also said, "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

The world is a very troubled place. There are conflicts of some sort on about every continent. Some start over a very small matter, and then they mushroom into something much bigger. It's like a large fire starting with just the lighting of one match. Of course we cannot bring about peace on a large scale by ourselves, but we can certainly do something that will make a difference. It's like the man who walked along the sea coast throwing starfish back into the water. Someone saw what he was doing and said, "There are so many that you won't make any difference." The man picked up another starfish and threw it into the water saying, "I made a difference to that one!" One never knows how small acts of kindness, helping a friend or a stranger with a small matter, will lead to bringing peace on a larger scale.

The late President Carter once said, I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can for as long as I can, with whatever I have to try to make a difference!



The Danger Of Pride

Third Sunday in Lent

Herod had heard of Jesus and desired to see Him. After all, most of Jesus's ministry was in Herod's district. So, why did Herod not seek out Jesus? As ruler, if Herod had sought Jesus, he would have demonstrated that Jesus was more important than himself. Herod was, therefore, able to save face when Jesus was brought before him. However, Jesus was unwilling to be a performer before Herod. This was unacceptable as that made Jesus look stronger and better than Herod. Herod's response to this through mockery was Herod's way of damage control.

So, what we should see here is the danger of pride and self-importance. God, Jesus, the prophets, the apostles, and all of scripture tell us that only through self-denial can one hope to achieve eternal life. Our own pride and self-importance will block us from the faith needed to recognize Jesus as our savior. Jesus tells us that He calls those that are His to Him. Are we willing to deny ourselves and go? Or do we expect Jesus to be the one that moves to us and performs the signs we expect of Him?

Luke 23:6-8 NASB 1995

[6] When Pilate heard it, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. [7] And when he learned that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time. [8] Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him.



Jesus at Herod's Court, by Duccio, c. 1310



Steven Massaglia
Camp Christy
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Fasting

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Looking at the life of Christ I submit to you that one of the best ways to surrender is through a spiritual discipline called fasting. All throughout the scriptures we see a multitude of examples of fasting from Daniel, to Elijah and even Jesus fasted as He sought the face and favor of God. Personally, if there is an area of my life where I would like to see improvement, I find a mentor and submit myself to their leadership and teaching to improve.

As the life of a Christian is to Glorify God, I would submit to you that there is no better teacher than studying the life and words of Christ. Throughout the Bible we see over 70 calls to fasting, and many Biblical mothers and fathers exemplifying a life of submission to the Father through fasting. But why?

I believe that Jesus reveals both the need and the importance to fast in Matthew Chapter 6. Most of us are likely familiar with this portion of scripture as “The Lord’s Prayer” is recorded in Matthew 6:9-15, in “The Lord’s Prayer” Jesus is giving a clear outline of how we should pray. This is seen in His language when He states in verse 5, “and when you pray...”. Notice Jesus did not say “if your pray” as prayer is a part of the Christian lifestyle, He provided a clear outline and example of the right way to pray so that “when you pray” you know how to approach the throne of God in prayer.

I believe that most Christians have not read the very next passage of scripture following “The Lord’s Prayer” Jesus continues to teach and direct his followers how to live a life that is pleasing to the Father and in verse 16 Jesus says, “And when you fast.” There is the same expectation from Jesus for fasting, as there is for prayer. An important note here, is that Jesus is clearly talking about the fasting of food. Though it is good to fast other things, a Biblical fast is fasting food. But why?

In a sermon I was listening to several months ago a pastor said it this way, “Outside of Physical limitations every Christian wanting to seek the face and favor of God should be fasting, as Christ clear calls and expects those following Him to do so.” Christ is not calling us to a life of comfort and complacency. Rather, He is calling us to obedience and submission.

If we are Bible believing Christians, the command and expectation to fast, from Jesus should be more than enough for us to fast; but if it is not Jesus reminds us in verse 18 to not boast or brag in our fasting so, “that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” When we are fasting not only are we walking in obedience, but we are intentionally seeking the face and the favor of our Father.



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Deepening Personal Relationship

With God During Lent

Fifth Sunday in Lent

What is Lent?

Even though the word “Lent” is not found in the Bible, it is observed by many Christian churches and nondenominational Christian churches in the world as a 40-day period of devotion, reflection and repentance that prepares for Easter.

Before coming to the United States, I had never heard of “Lent,” which is observed as a 40-day period of devotion, self-reflection, and repentance in preparation for Easter. Although I have never heard the word “Lent” in my Christian life, I have had the opportunity to participate in group fasting and prayer every year in Myanmar (formerly Burma) before Easter since 2001. I use these Lenten fasts and prayers as a time to repent my sins, reflect on myself, seek God’s will and guidance, and spiritual renewal.

By the grace of God, I was reunited with my wife and son in February 2011. After I came to the United States as refugee in 2011, I had the opportunity to meet many American pastors and they explained with me the meaning and purpose of Lent. I was told that Lent is an opportunity for repentance, self-reflection, and spiritual renewal, and that the 40-days period represent the time when Christ was tempted in the wilderness, fasted, and overcame temptation.

Once I understood the meaning and purpose of Lent, my fasting and prayer during Lent became more meaningful to me and my actions became much more effective. During Lent, there are three things I do with all my heart, namely “fasting, praying, and giving.” These three things have not only deepened my relationship with God, but they have also deepened my understanding of God's forgiveness of my sins. It also made me want to be more compassionate towards others.

The significance of fasting and prayer

The word “fast” is derived from the Hebrew term *tsoom*, which refers to the practice of self-denial.[1] Fasting, by definition, is going without food and/or drink for a period of time or abstaining from all or some kinds of food or drink, especially as a religious observance. Fasting and prayer is one of the most powerful keys for spiritual and physical nourishment, and it also the best way to rebuild a relationship with God, and then it's a good way to renew our holiness by repenting sins before Him. True fasting was meant to be a time of self-denial, self-examination, self-reflection and repentance for sin, and it also humbles the flesh and pleases the Spirit of God when it is practiced for repentance and self-denial purpose. True fasting and prayer brings humility and alignment with God. It breaks the power of flesh and demons, and it also kills unbelief and brings answers to prayer when nothing else works (Matt. 17:21). Biblical fasting is often closely linked to repentance, as in the examples of the city of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-8). Biblical fasting comes from a humble heart seeking God (Isa 58:3-7).

The benefits of fasting and prayer during Lent

True fasting and prayer deepen our personal relationship with God when we focus on repentance of our sins, self-denial, seeking God's will and guidance. Fasting and prayer that focus on the God brings the benefits which is physical and spiritual healing. The Bible said, "The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust" (Jonah 3:5–6, NIV). The Ninevites fasting and prayer is good because its purpose is very clear; they repented and returned back to God from their wicked way. The Ninevites gave an example of how to repent a true repentance with fasting and prayer which leads to the mercy of God.

Research by Dr. George Thampy, a biochemist at the University of Indiana, on 60 healthy subjects who participated in a three-weeks fast revealed interesting results: (1) significant lowering of cholesterol; (2) lowering of blood pressure; (3) relief from arthritis; (4) loss of body mass and weight (as much as 40 pounds during the three-weeks fast).[1]

Lent also reminds us of our responsibility to care for others and share our blessings. During Lent, it is a time to remember all those less fortunate and let us remind ourselves what is our responsibility to care for others as Jesus cares for us.

If we participate wholeheartedly during Lent, we will receive true forgiveness from God, and the Holy Spirit will transform our inner-being because Lent is the best time to renew ourselves, just as we use the mirror to check our face for dirt. If we examine ourselves in the Word of God during Lent, seek His will and guidance through fasting and prayer, it will deepen our faith and our personal relationship with Him. Therefore, let us spend our time during Lent as a time for repentance, self-reflection, self-denial, seeking God's will and guidance, and spiritual renewal.



A Hero's Welcome

Palm Sunday

My son served in the US Army and was deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I can remember the day we participated in a welcome home ceremony at Fort Carson, Colorado. We were anxious after waiting months and months for our soldier's return to US soil. All of the families were gathered in the gymnasium with our "Welcome Home" signs and celebratory mood. The commanding general of Fort Carson spoke to us and told us that the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was soon to arrive. We sat and waited: it seemed like an eternity. The Major General finally gave the command for the returning soldiers to enter the gymnasium. The crowd went wild with shouts and cheers hunting for their soldier to give them a hero's welcome.

Jesus was given a hero's welcome at his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Luke 19:36-38 records, "As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (NLT)

The celebration of the King entering Jerusalem soon turns to weeping. "But as soon as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. 42How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes."

The people expected this King to provide political peace, deliverance from the oppression of Rome. Jesus came to provide personal peace, reconciliation with God. Colossians 1:19-22 states, "For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault." (NLT)

Jesus weeps when people reject his invitation and leave themselves with no hope, peace, joy or forgiveness. As we celebrate our hero, King Jesus, who causes us to weep? Who will we bring the message to of God's reconciliation through Jesus Christ's blood on the cross?

Who will you invite to join the great crowd recorded in Revelation 7:9-10, "After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" (NLT)



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Mama

Maundy Thursday

Hotel room 107 was dark as I entered and glanced about: two beds, two wire kennels, personal possessions piled everywhere. In one bed slept a small silent figure. Her daughter was hurriedly whispering about Mama's dementia medication here and bits of food there before she slipped out the door. I had agreed to watch this stranger's mother for one hour while she went to salvage some things from her hurricane-wrecked home before it rained again.

Why am I here, Lord?

I sat down between the two beds to study the sleeping figure and looked around: two kennels each with a pacing cat, the TV on a news station quietly reporting the disaster, medicine bottles. The figure in the bed started stirring, then groaning over and over, "My feet! My feet!" Rising, I noticed that her feet were uncovered. It was obvious from their delicate look that they had not had weight on them for a while. By this time, she had noticed me and pointed to her feet. "Pain, pain!" I went into the bathroom and spotted the dispenser of lotion. Warming a generous amount between my palms, I started gently stroking her feet. The touch seemed to sooth her and she fell back to sleep in a few minutes.

But I was not anticipating what happened. As I stroked her feet, the Holy Spirit moved through the room and through me in a quiet, mighty surge. I was reminded of Mother Teresa's statement about wound care as touching the suffering flesh of Jesus; I knew that I was touching Jesus' feet. My tears welled up each time as this was repeated over three hours. Her daughter rushed in, hurriedly explaining her lateness. I embraced her and left.

God always acts with purpose. Jesus washing his disciples' feet was an act of hospitality, inviting his disciples to participate in the shared life that he, his Father and the Holy Spirit enjoyed. "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (Verse 15)

Our most critical mission is to wash others' feet – our enemies, our friends, our sisters and brothers- so that they can see what it means to participate in the life of the kingdom of heaven right now.

Maundy comes from the Vulgate Latin *Novum Mandatum*, the new mandate or command. Will we respond to this command in obedience and in love? Will we surrender what it takes to wash the feet of an ancient, demented woman expecting nothing? Our irritating next-door neighbor? Someone with opposite political views?

Prayer: I surrender all that I am to you, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Direct me in extending the participation in that hospitality to the least of these my brothers and sisters. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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The Beginning Of Hope

Good Friday

Good Friday. The climactic moment where, as an English teacher, I stand on my tippy toes with my hands in the air and say, “It’s that moment where you’re standing at the top of the mountain, the edge of the cliff, holding your breath, waiting to see what’s going to happen next!”

The triumphal entry on a donkey was days ago, where the palm branches waved in joy. Now, Jesus is mercilessly beaten and flogged and carries the cross from Pontius Pilate’s palace to Golgotha – a less than half-mile path – that must have felt like the longest, steepest mountain as the splintering wood rubbed against open wounds. Nails are placed in his hands and feet and the cross is hoisted into the air between two criminals.

The scene is dark and grim. While some hurl insults, others weep and wail at the pain of this moment. What is going to happen? Will Jesus save himself and the others? Will the Roman guards suddenly feel guilty and take him down? The sun flees the sky in the middle of the afternoon, and darkness falls across the land. The curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple is torn down the middle from top to bottom. The earth shakes, rocks split apart, and tombs are opened. And suddenly, Jesus shouts and releases his spirit. The Messiah, their Rabbi – Jesus – hangs limp and lifeless high above people’s heads.

It seems we just plummeted off that cliff to an abrupt end of the story. How can THIS be “Good?” It is the epitome of the tension we live our lives in. The duality of our every day. We’d rather flee the conflict, but it is what drives the story forward. The long drive across the flatlands makes the mountains more majestic. The more murky waters and view of the riverbank or lakebed makes the expansive, seemingly-never-ending blue of the ocean that much more breathtaking. As one of my dearest mentors, Rev. Duane Gibson, once said, “Adversity is never the end point; for those faced with a positive attitude, it’s always the beginning.”

The pain is real. The hardship is true. The evil is palpable. Yet, in what feels so bad, there is plenty of good, if we choose to look for it. One of the criminals recognizes Jesus for who He is, asks to be remembered as He enters His Kingdom, and is granted eternity in Paradise with his belief and confession in Jesus as Lord. Jesus’s mother, Mary, demonstrates great love and faithfulness, staying with her son until his last moment on earth. Joseph of Arimathea demonstrates sacrificial giving, offering his tomb and, together with Nicodemus, prepares Jesus’s body and gives him a proper burial.

Still, today we sit in the heaviness and weight of that moment. We pause in the tension. We feel what it is to suddenly have a loved one stripped away from us. We feel the confusion and anger that those who were closest to Jesus must have felt in that moment as the One who embodied love and light has so viciously been killed. It doesn’t feel good. It really seems hopeless.

And yet, today, the other side of the tension is that we live in a world where we know that Sunday is coming. An entry in Sarah Young's Jesus Calling reads,

"Heaviness is not of My kingdom. Cling to hope, and My rays of Light will reach you through the darkness."

Today, might we remember that,

"God, who began a GOOD work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (Phil. 1:6 NLT).

Even when the darkness is blinding and the pain feels overwhelming, we serve a GOOD God. And even when it seems that the cliffhanger became a nosedive, the promise we live in is that the end of the story is GOOD. Good Friday was only the beginning.

"God, who began a GOOD work within you, will
continue his work until it is finally finished on
the day when Christ Jesus returns"
Phillipians 1:6



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When Hope Seems Lost, God Knows the Way

Easter Sunday

Easter is a season of joy, but before the dawn of resurrection, there was a night of despair. The disciples, after witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus, were left broken and hopeless. The One they had followed, the One in whom they had placed all their trust, was gone. Their sorrow was deep, their faith shaken, and their future uncertain. But that was Friday; and the resurrection was coming.

In John 11:25-26 (NASB 1995), Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" He spoke these words to Martha before raising Lazarus, reminding her that even in the face of death, hope is not lost.

There was a man in our congregation who understood this kind of despair. His wife suffered a major heart attack and fell into a deep coma. For months, her husband and her parents kept vigil by her bedside, waiting and praying for a miracle. The medical staff gave them no hope of her waking up. The uncertainty and grief weighed heavily on them, much like the disciples in the hours after Jesus' burial. Eventually, they took her off life support and moved her to palliative care while she was still in a coma. The family was told to go and prepare for her death. The waiting was agonizing, the feeling of hopelessness was overwhelming.

But Easter teaches us that the story is not over. On the third day, the tomb was empty. Jesus conquered death, proving that He is, indeed, the resurrection and the life. What seemed like the end was only the beginning. The disciples' grief turned to joy, their hopelessness to faith renewed.

This truth became even more real for the family keeping watch over their loved one. One Easter Sunday, after months of silence, and the medical staff having given up hope, she miraculously woke up. Their sorrow turned to joy, their prayers to praise. Just as the disciples witnessed the power of resurrection, so did this family, experiencing firsthand the life-giving power of Christ.

For those experiencing seasons of despair—whether through illness, loss, or uncertainty—Easter reminds us that we serve a living Savior. We may not always see the miracle immediately, but Jesus remains the resurrection and the life. Sometimes, resurrection looks like physical healing. Other times, it comes in the form of spiritual renewal, renewed strength, or the promise of eternal life.

As we celebrate Easter, let us hold onto the truth that Jesus is alive, and because He lives, we always have hope. Just as the disciples' sorrow was turned to joy, our darkest moments are not the end of our story. The God of resurrection is still at work.



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