

Today is Holy Saturday, April 20, 2019 - Day 46 of the Lenten Season

"May these words and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14

Thank you for accompanying me on our journey of faith. I must tell you that I have enjoyed our time together. I hope and pray that I have been able to inspire you to a greater understanding of our faith and belief in the Risen Christ. Today's readings are a microcosm of man's relationship with God on earth.

Today's suggested readings:

(OT) The Book of Genesis 1:1 – 2:2 (NIV) "Six Days of Creation & the Sabbath"

(OT) The Book of Genesis 22: 1:18 (RSV) "God Tests Abraham"

(NT) The Gospel of Luke 24:1-12 (NIV) "The Resurrection of Jesus"

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke: *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 over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.*

When they came back from the tomb, they told these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Do you know how sometimes we can get trapped in the stupid things of life? I remember questioning the concept of three days because I immediately assumed a period of 72 hours. Well, duh! There were no clocks in Jesus' day. A day was considered as one sunset to the next sunset. On Day 1, Good Friday, Jesus was crucified and was buried before sundown. Sundown was the beginning of the Sabbath. No work could be done until the next sundown. Day 2 was the Sabbath. Day 3, the women went to the tomb and found it empty. And then, as they say, "The rest is history!" He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

After Jesus was assassinated, His disciples went into hiding. They had every reason to fear more repercussions, either from the Jewish leaders, or from the Romans. It was the typical practice to round up all the leaders of a rebellion and kill them all. As much as they feared for their own safety, they also were experiencing the grief one experiences when a loved one dies. There, also, may have been some anger, anger at God for letting it happen, and anger among them that they had not done enough to protect Jesus. Sometimes it is difficult to put ourselves in the shoes of others. Empathy is not always our strong suit. Yet, we all know grief. How we deal with it is an individual thing.

For today, we remember that it is Day 2. Our Lord and Savior is dead and still in the grave. The miracle of Easter is a day away. We gather with our friends and family and remember the good times and the bad times. We comfort each other and try to remember all that He has taught us. We weep and lament our loss.

Jesus, we love you. We miss your smile, your laugh. We miss Your words of healing, forgiveness, and love as we weep for our loss. Please forgive us. We thank God, our Father for accepting Your sacrifice on our behalf. Lord, have mercy on us! Christ, have mercy on us! Lord, have mercy on us!