

April 12, 2009

Scripture: John 20: 1-18

Sermon: "Woman, Why Are You Weeping?"

Do not be afraid for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people! To you is risen this day a Savior, Who is the Messiah the Lord! This will be a sign for you: you will find the stone rolled away from the tomb, the burial cloths rolled away and Jesus resurrected! And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

That's how Easter is supposed to come to us! It is a special day!

It should come in with hoopla and trumpets. It should come in with fanfare and celebration. With a multitude of angels announcing his resurrection, "Go and find". Easter should come in with trumpets blaring. With all the earth rejoicing. It should come in with bright shining light because even the sun and the stars in heave are dancing. This is a huge moment in time! Easter should begin with celebration and fanfare. Easter should come in with a bang!

But according to the Gospel of John, Easter morning came in with darkness. That first Easter morning started in grief. That first Easter morning was filled with fear and mourning. According to the Gospel of John, that first Easter morning came in with grief and without hope.

In the quiet morning, in the early hours, when darkness still blanked the earth, Mary made her way slowly to the tomb, heart heavy with grief, her stride slowed down by sorrow, her world, her foundation, her hope: shaken and shattered.

She comes to the garden alone, weeping and mourning. Mary has lost her Savior. Mary has lost her beloved teacher. Mary is mourning her trusted friend.

Mary comes to the garden alone, expecting to grieve, expecting to mourn, expecting to weep. But the unexpected has happened:

The stone has been removed.

Jesus' body is no longer there

And Mary is not alone.

"Woman, why are you weeping?"

Expectations are shattered. Foundations are shaken. Worlds are up turned.

With just one word, Mary finds that her world, her foundation, her expectations are once again shaken and shatter, this time in celebration, this time in joy, this time in hope.

Expectations of a grave are now experiences of an empty tomb.

Expectations of mourning a crucified Savior have now become experiences of with the Risen Lord.

Expectations of grieving and mourning are now moments of joy like none other has ever know.

Easter morning comes in quietly and shatters Mary's expectations. And today, Easter morning has done the same thing: 2000 years later. We expected to come to the garden alone, as we mourned but instead we are invited to celebrate. We expected to come as broken people, but instead we find ourselves made whole. We expected to come without hope but instead we find that we are experiencing more hope than we can handle.

Easter morning shatters our expectations and invites us to experience the hope of the resurrection. Easter morning comes in with an invitation to experience the new life that "God brings forth from the most unlikely places."

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Worlds are upturned. Foundations are shaken and expectations are shattered, this time in joy. This time in celebration, this time in hope.

Easter morning comes in with a quiet calm and restores the peace that passes all understanding. Easter morning comes in with fear and grief and breaks forth in hope and celebration. Easter morning comes in with darkness and blazes forth in light. And life will never be the same again!

Because God has the last word! Because God extends the invitation to encounter the Risen Christ in our lives in indescribable, moving, life-changing ways.

This world tells us to be content with the grave. This world tells us to stay in our sorrow and grief. This world tells us that there is no hope. This world tells us that there is nothing more. And Easter morning says No! Easter morning comes in and shatters our expectations. Easter morning comes in and says celebrate because this world does not have the last word! Easter morning comes in and empowers us for both confession and mission.

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Easter morning comes in and shatters our expectations. There does not need to be a multitude of angels announcing this miracle, telling people the resurrection has happened. There does not need to be huge fanfare. There does not need to be big hoopla.

Because we as people of faith know that the miracle of the resurrection happens every time we encounter the risen Lord. It is not a one time event. Resurrection didn't only just happen two thousand years ago. Resurrection happens every time we open our lives to the miracle that is God's love. Resurrection happens every time we experience the Risen Lord in our lives.

the miracle of the resurrection happens every time when we look beyond the grave and see that God is still working in this world. the miracle of the resurrection happens every time we hear the Risen Christ call us by name and claims us as his very own.

We are a resurrection people and our expectations are shattered. We are a resurrection people and our world has been turned upside down.. We are a resurrection people and our foundations have been shaken. This time in hope. This time in celebration. This time in joy.

We are a resurrection people.

This world does not have the last word. The grave does not have the last word. Suffering does not have the last word. Even death, does not have the last word. God does!

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May we always expect the unexpected as resurrection people as we encounter the Risen Lord in our lives. Amen.

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