

Easter Sunday: Empty Strips of Cloth

April 4, 2010



“He is not here; he has risen!
Remember how he told you, while
he was still with you in Galilee.”

Luke 24:1-12 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. When they came back from the tomb, they told all 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.

New Life At Easter

The Easter season is filled with images of new life and celebration. Children think of decorated eggs, bunnies and baby chicks. Adults think of the beauty of springtime. It makes everyone happy to see these signs of the changing season.

Yet, Christians know that *new life* is more than the growing things of nature. New life is super-natural. Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead! That Good News gives us a new and eternal life with God. It is a permanent change that transforms us.

So as you celebrate Easter, our most important day as Christians, remember what

Jesus has done for you. In our culture we can't seem to escape the mixing up of secular symbols into our religious holy days. So use these symbols of springtime to teach your children about the true New Life. Talk about how Jesus came back to life so that we would never need to fear death. Let springtime simply be a visible reminder of the hope we find in trusting God's love and believing that Jesus has saved us.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave

*him up for us all — how will he not also give us all things?
Romans 8:31-32*

Easter Prayer

Lord God, You gave Your Son, Jesus, to overcome sin and death for our sake. The promise of eternal life with you is fulfilled through this Easter message.

Today as we remember, we know that Jesus is with us. We follow His ways and put our trust and hope in Him.

Help us to share the Easter message with a hurting world. Let our actions every day show that the love of Jesus is for everyone.

In Jesus' name we pray,
AMEN.

God's Promises for You

The Bible offers many promises from God that can help us day to day. Here's a promise for each day this week. What do they mean to you? Consider memorizing them so the comfort and power of God's word is with you always.

SALVATION—Sunday, April 4th

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

How does the knowledge of your salvation through Christ give you encouragement to face life's challenges?

FORGIVENESS—Monday, April 6th

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

For what do you need forgiveness? Whom do you need to forgive?

RENEWAL—Tuesday, April 7th

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17

COURAGE—Wednesday, April 8th

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

TRUST—Thursday, April 9th

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

PATIENCE—Friday, April 10th

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

PEACE—Saturday, April 11th

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. *John 14:27*