



Easter Sunday

April 16, 2006

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The Easter Story *John 20:1-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple... He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead... But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying... They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus, Your Friend Everyday



What makes Easter so special? Egg hunts for the kids? Singing familiar songs at church? Gathering for Easter dinner? Certainly these add to the joy of Easter. But Easter is about the love that Jesus has for us. He wants to be more in our lives than just the reason behind a special day.

Jesus wants to be our friend, our helper, our guide. Just as Jesus left the tomb long ago for new life, Jesus now wants to lead us out of our struggles, our darkness, our tomb.

And Jesus wants to be our friend not just on Easter Sunday, but on Monday, too. And on Tuesday. Wednesday. Everyday. Jesus is there for you every day.

And no matter what your "darkness" is, Jesus wants to be your light.

His way is the only perfect way. There may be other paths that bring temporary relief or pleasure, but these paths eventually lead back to the darkness. To find our way completely out of the darkness and into eternal life, we need Jesus as our guide. Day to day, every day.



God Loves You

God loves you more than you know. You are his child.

His one-of-a-kind precious child; a joint-heir with Christ.



As you read through scriptures, look for what it teaches you about God's character. He is all-powerful, holy, unchangeable. He is love. He is patient and forgiving to those who love Him. He is worthy of your trust.

On the reverse side of this page are some scriptures to help you learn more about the love that God, the Father, and Jesus have for you. →

God's Promises for You

There are many promises from God to us in the Bible. Whole other books are even written on the subject. Here are a few scriptures. Ask God to help you find the ones that will speak intimately to you. Consider memorizing them or carrying them with you.

ALL NEEDS — God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19*

BELIEF — "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved--you and your household." *Acts 16:31*

COURAGE — "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are mine." *Isaiah 43:1*

DEATH — God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave; for He shall receive me. *Psalms 49:15*

ENEMIES — "No weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord...." *Isaiah 54:17*

FEAR — For I the Lord, your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, fear not; I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*

GUIDANCE — I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. *Psalms 32:8*

HELP — The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. *Psalms 9:9*

JOY — Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. *Psalms 126:5*

LONELINESS — "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." *2 Corinthians 6:18*

MERCY — But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children. *Psalms 103:17*

PATIENCE — Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. *Galatians 6:9*

PURPOSE — For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. *Ephesians 2:10*

RIGHTEOUSNESS — Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Psalms 23:6*

SALVATION — Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

STRENGTH — I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. *Philippians 4:13*

TRUST — Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. *Proverbs 3:5,6*

WORRY — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. *Romans 8:28*

Want to learn more?

Look up more verses in a variety of translations by visiting BibleGateway.com. If you don't have a Bible of your own, let a pastor know. You can also visit a Christian book store and ask about finding just the right Bible for you. Read study handouts or listen to sermons from previous weeks online at StJohnMD.org.

