

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

April 18, 2021 – Easter 3

“You are witnesses of these things.”

– Luke 24:48 –

Have you ever thought about being an Easter witness? That’s a strange question to ask. There were no actual eye witnesses to the raising of the crucified Jesus from the dead just like there were witnesses in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Unlike Lazarus, nobody actually saw Jesus stroll out of the open tomb. Yet, Jesus tells his disciples then, and his disciples today, that we are witnesses. We can sit alone and quiet for hours. We can take long walks alone in the forest or along the beach. We can delve into our own ego, but never, ever would we conceive and then come to the conclusion that God Almighty came to earth, was tortured, hung on a cross, and then rise from the dead and return to the very people who betrayed him.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is not a human idea. The death and resurrection of Jesus is a cataclysmic world event, something that happened outside of us and for us rather than within us. That’s why we have to speak up and speak out. We have to tell the world that something has happened in the world, an event we did not devise: God has raised Jesus from the dead. That glorious event of the resurrection doesn’t need anything from us to prove it. All that is needed now is to be a witness.

If we don’t step up and become witnesses to the resurrection, how will people know the truth? How will they get the knowledge that death is not the last word, that evil is not the last word, and that there is hope in a hopeless situation, unless there is a witness to tell them?

The Easter message is not “natural.” What is natural though is death, defeat, and hopelessness that comes when you think your future is over. Therefore, somebody has got to do something. Someone has got to love people enough to give them the good news that Jesus is alive, he is risen from the grave, never to die again!

Will you be a witness to what you have seen and heard on Easter? Will you testify to and point to the great victory that Jesus has won for us? There are people out there who are literally dying to get the good news. Will you be a witness?

Amen.

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