

May Newsletter 2020

From Heaven's Heart

The Easter Stories...God Intended for them to live on...and on.
Frustrated, Exhausted, Devastated, Confused...Nearing the End of Your Rope?

This may not be you...but it is someone you know and you know the person I'm talking about. A mother, father, sister, brother, child, grandchild, neighbor...and yes, maybe it's you?

We know very well the human condition. We know very well the patterns of life. Good days. Not so good days. Things are going great. Things are not going so great. Our health is good. Our health is not so good. Money in the bank. Little money left. Plenty of energy. Running on empty. Life. Death.

All of these are patterns of life...the human condition.

It's easy to go on when most things are going well. It's far more difficult when they are not going so well.

Here's one of the Easter Stories God intended to help us when we know we must go on with living life as best we can when life is not going so well. It took place as Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem...What was coming? His arrest, trial, punishment, death and yes His resurrection.

We tend to separate each of these stories or events in little buckets don't we? We are so excited when Jesus is healing folks, when He arrives and raises His friend Lazarus, who's been dead for three days from the grave. Then we hit rock bottom when we read the story of Jesus arrest, the beatings, the nails, the shame and His death. We feel the pain. It's as if we were there. We don't want to go on. How can we? Our Savior has been put to death. Innocent but found guilty. But then three days later, He's alive. God breathes life back into our Lord and He's with friends; teaching, healing, loving and yes forgiving His friends for leaving Him alone when He needed them the most. But He was not surprised. Nothing surprises God.

When we separate these events, we miss the most important part of the story. There was a resurrection. All the bad stuff was erased, buried with Jesus. Then there is a new beginning. A fresh start. Hope is restored. We can live life as God intended, for all eternity. Healing and Salvation is ours. Thank you Jesus as the yard signs say.

We tend to separate our on life events in little buckets too. But we shouldn't. Not if we want to go on living life as God wants us to. Focused on one event alone, we find ourselves constantly moving from mountain top experiences to the deepest valleys without any warning. But there are warnings. We can look back. As far as you'd like to look, you see the same events of life being played over and over again. Prosperity

to poverty. Health to sickness. Life to death. Life is an endless cycle. But if we get hung up dwelling on the moment...good or bad...We will lose sight of the big picture. We lose sight of the real, true picture.

I'm just like you. When I pray, I'm always hoping and believing for a quick response from my Father in Heaven. But I have learned a quick response is not always in my best interest. God always is working out our own healing while we wait.

Mary and Martha sent for Jesus when their brother was dying. He showed up late. Lazarus, Jesus' friend, died three days before Jesus arrived. When He finally arrived, they said, "Master, you are too late. We knew if you had gotten here earlier, you could have healed him. Now he's dead."

The Bible says, "Jesus wept". Was He crying because His friend had died? I don't think so because He knew what He was about to do. He was about to raise His friend from death. Jesus knew what was ahead of Him. He knew that His closest friends and followers still did not understand what was coming...the big picture. Jesus knew, the people, like us, were still living life by the moment...in little buckets...missing the big picture...the big story of God's endless mercy, unfailing love, insurmountable power, knowledge of everything that was, is and will be.

Need more joy? Need more understanding? Need more peace? Need some relief? You might want to work on how you are living/managing your life...how you think about moments you face, the little buckets. This too will pass. Whatever you are dealing with, this too will pass. Mary's encounter with Jesus? "Lord, if you had only been here". She was living the moment. A moment later, her brother walked out of the grave.

Frustrated, exhausted, devastated, confused...All of this...this too shall pass. But we want to understand it. What we really want is to see the big picture. How's this going to end?

Let me help clear this up for you. I have to do the same for myself when I fall into the trap of living the moment, wanting to know how it's going to end. Well, it's all part of life. And yes this life too will pass. But not for us believers. We have the rest of the Easter Story. We have the big picture. The truth! We know how all of this is going to end. There was a resurrection. By faith, the Bible says, we are saved from death and the grave. This is all temporary. God's answers to our prayers are never late. He planned, purposed or allowed all the stories. He knows how things will end for us. We know how this will all end.

Try your best to enjoy your life. Look around until you find something that brings a smile on your face and enough hope to fill your heart up.

With the deepest love for you,
Pastor Steve