

2020 Easter

We need to go back to long ago to continue that Journey with Jesus. We walked with him from the triumphal entry in to Jerusalem. Through his arrest, his trial, his execution by crucifixion. We journeyed with Him to the grave. Now we are back in the Upper room. Look, a disciple is running up to the door pounding on it. Let him in.

He's alive, He alive, He really is alive. Who? Who?? Jesus of course. He has risen from the dead and he's alive.

Why are you looking at me like that? I'm telling you he's alive. I saw him I spoke with him. I touched him. Ah Glory he's alive.

Slow down Larry take a deep breath. I know, I know, I saw him die to. Crucified, stripped of all his dignity, bloodied so bad it was hard to recognize him. But he was dead. We saw the water and blood flow from his side. He was dead sure enough. We saw him buried in the tomb. That massive boulder rolled in front blocking the entrance. All our dreams shattered. We thought he was the Messiah, the Saviour of humanity. Many of us had already gone other getting ready to leave.

Then on Sunday it all changed. Some went down to the tomb to find it empty. The body was not there. We did not know what happened. Did someone steal the body? Why? It made no sense, the Jewish leaders had won. Jesus was dead. We were in fear for our lives, were we next?

That when it happened. Mary Magdalene came bursting in. "He alive, he alive, the Master is alive. I have seen the Lord". We just stared at her. We thought she was delusional. He's dead. No one likes it but it's true. Mary left upset with us not believing her. But she left with the firm believe that Jesus was alive. Yes, he said he would rise from the dead. But let's get real. Jesus was dead.

But that all changed, later that week we were in the upper room, the doors were locked. We still feared the Jewish leaders were coming after us. We did not know what to do next. Then, He was just there. In the middle of the room. Jesus stood there among us. We were silent, we really didn't believe our eyes. Then He spoke: "Peace be with you" then he held out his hands so we could see where the nails had pierced his hands.

It was Jesus. He was alive.

Confused I just stood there. Then He looked at me. As his eyes met mine, love seemed to fill my whole being. All my fears disappeared. Jesus was alive and with me. I knew that whatever the Jewish leaders would do to me; Whatever the Romans would do to me; Whatever the world would put in front of me, we would meet it together. Jesus had victory over sin and death and I knew that together we could endure the future.

The journey we have taken with Jesus reminds us what the Church is all about. What we are all about. It helps us to focus on what is important. The church for many has become a shelter from the outside world instead of a launch pad to go into the world to share the love and salvation of Jesus with those who so desperately need him, and some do not even know it.

This journey with Jesus should help us realize that with Jesus by our side leading us not even the Gates of hell can overcome us. We know that Jesus has overcome the evil in the world.

He has overcome hate, with sacrificial and selfless love.

He has overcome depression, additions, loneliness with his eternal presence and the knowledge that we are never alone, and His help is always right there.

He has overcome our handicaps, no matter what it is, physical or mental, no matter what it is, Jesus being with us will enable us to overcome, to endure, and when it seems too much to bear Jesus will carry us through to the end.

Jesus has overcome sickness and death. The world killed him but God raised him from the dead.

Jesus will carry us through any sickness, Cancer, leukemia, diabetes. It does not matter what you have ailing you.

With Jesus at your side and in your heart you may not be cured in this world, but you can have victory over it. You can find peace and contentment in Jesus

And in the next world there is perfect healing for us all in the presence of the Almighty.

This Covid19 virus is no different.

Jesus has victory and he will give us victory over it. We can find peace and contentment as we walk through this crisis with Jesus guiding, leading and sometimes carrying us.

He will give us victory over all things to come. Why? Because he loves us.

He died because of our sin, and rose again for our justification.

This is the message to encourage each other with

and this is the message that we have to share with the world,

He is risen, He is alive today, Alleluia. Amen.