

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

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Faith over Fear

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome had bought sweet spices that they might come and anoint Jesus).

OKAY. I think that took a lot of courage for those three women! Would I have had that kind of courage? Maybe it was still a bit dark (no Daylight Savings Time). They had with them the spices to anoint Jesus – what if the soldiers were to intercept them after such tumultuous days before? Would they have been “in trouble”? Then they wondered who would roll away the large stone from the entrance? What about the Old Testament laws of touching a dead body? What if, what if, what if?

But those “what if’s” made no difference to those women! They were women on a mission of love and nothing or no one was going to stop them!

But when they looked, they saw that the stoned was rolled away; for it was very great!” What sweet relief must have flooded over them! They entered the sepulcher but instead of finding the body of Jesus *they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.* Fear all over again! What were they to do now? Turn and run away? I think that would have been my reaction.

Usually when an angel speaks to humans the first greeting is “Do not be afraid” (*Be not affrighted*).

“Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth which was crucified; he is risen; he is not here; behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him as he said unto you.”

What would my reaction be? Even though I was told not to be afraid, that’s easier said than done.

Would I be in too much fear to hear the fantastic news that the angel said?

This Easter message was first proclaimed to three humble women! *And they went out quickly and fled from the sepulcher for they trembled and were amazed; neither said they anything to any man for they were afraid.* Good to know I’m not alone in my fear!

“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.”

A very thankful yet fearful Mary, she did what she was told to do. She went and told those who had been with Jesus that He was alive but they did not believe her. If I were in that first Easter story, would I have had the courage to go tell the disciples what I had just witnessed?

I pray that I would have that kind of courage! But thanks be to God we have the Holy Spirit to guide us, lead us, and to give us the words to tell our story to those hungering to hear this Good News!

May we all be bold to “Go and Tell” this glorious story and find the joy in knowing that “Jesus lives, the victory’s won!”

Jesus lives! The victory's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High o'er heaven and earth is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful. Doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus' living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Naught from me His love shall sever;
Life nor death nor powers of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure Defense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! and now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense,
Jesus is my confidence!

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

The Christian Life Committee

