

Do not be afraid He is not here; HE HAS RISEN

Mt. 28: 5-6



Reflection:

March 2024

“Do not be afraid... He is not here; he has risen.”

(Mt 28:5-6)

The tomb was tightly secured. Guards stood watch around the clock. Yet, Jesus defied all odds, fulfilling His promise by triumphantly rising from the dead. It was for each one of us that He died and rose again. The unchanging message of the Resurrection proclaims victory over death, deliverance from sin, the assurance of hope over obstacles and the potential of a life empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is the foundation of our faith, let us meditate on how it has influenced and moulded us.

As we ponder the resurrection of Jesus and its influence on our personal lives, the first thing we recognise beyond doubt is that the promises in the Word of God will be fulfilled. It is written thus in the gospels, “However, he will rise again on the third day”. Just as the words spoken by Mary, “Be it done to me according to Thy word” were fulfilled in her life, the word of God found fulfillment in Jesus’ life. Easter prompts us for a re-evaluation of our lives. How does the Word of God shape our character, guide our decisions, fuel our dreams, influence our leisure, and define our work, as well as everything we hold dear for the future? The feast of Easter beckons us to partake in the blessedness of Mary who believed in the fulfillment of all that was spoken to her by the Lord. It challenges us to embrace His promises with unwavering faith in the Word of God and radical obedience to it.

Secondly, the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus instills a remarkable hope in all who believe in him. It makes clear to us that there are new paths beyond the walls of selfishness and the culture of death. “He has opened a new path for us through the veil that is his body”. (Heb 10: 20). It beckons us to herald the end of the old and the dawn of the new within our own lives. Then our life situations will be renewed and invigorated like the dry bones in Ezekiel’s prophesy. The Resurrection makes it impermissible for the life of a Christian to be wearied down by the burdens of sin and worldly pressures. It bestows meaning and purpose to life as well as the opportunity for a new beginning despite our past situations. “Behold I have set before you an open door which no one is able to shut”. (Rev 3 8). This door is the resurrection of Jesus.

It was to Mary of Magdala, a woman once delivered from seven demons, that the Risen Christ first revealed himself. She was tasked by him to make known the good news of the resurrection to the disciples. Mary Magdalene stands as a bold testament that the transformative power of the resurrection can elevate even those deemed most pitiable to the glory of the Father and she challenges us with her courageous witness. In contemplating her example, we are prompted to assess the depth of our belief in the Lord’s ability to work such miraculous transformations within us. Is our encounter with the Lord robust enough to instill in us the fervour to hasten with the Good News burning in our hearts as Mary did? Does the Jesus Youth community to which we belong nurture and encourage such transformative experiences?

“But you will be baptised by the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5) was the promise Jesus gave after his resurrection. The fruition of the resurrection in our lives can be ascertained by our acceptance of this promise. Should not our Jesus Youth fraternities be transformed into new apostolic communities in which the Holy Spirit baptises and leads? To bring this vision to fruition, let us forge ahead hand in hand with our brethren, recognizing the open door set before us, a door “which no one is able to shut”. This is the door of hope, the promise of the resurrection. Let us pray with hope that the whole world will enter through this door into the fullness of joy.

K. K. Joseph

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