



EASTER 2019

How did the disciples feel when they woke up on that first Easter morning? Awful. Jesus, in whom they had put all their hopes, had been cruelly executed. And, to make matters worse, many of them had deserted him in his final hours. But soon, their despair would be turned to joy.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

In Luke’s Gospel, this is the question that God’s messengers put to Jesus’ followers who came to the tomb on the first Easter morning.

These women had not come to look for the living. Now that the Sabbath was over, they had come with spices and ointments to prepare a corpse for burial. They had seen Jesus die, and with him the hopes they had in him.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here: he is risen.”



And then the news began to spread among the disciples. And before long they were meeting the risen Lord and receiving his forgiveness and the fullness of life he had come to give.

This is the message of Easter, this is the heart of our faith. Do I truly believe it?

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” That same question can be asked of you and me, when we are full of gloom at the darkness we see: in our world, in our church, in our own lives.

It is understandable that the women at the tomb did not think of looking for life. It is understandable that sometimes we lose heart, too. But the message of Easter is a call to lift our eyes from dead things, which are indeed real, to where life is, just as real and far more powerful.

In Matthew’s account, the angel tells the disciples that Jesus has gone ahead to Galilee and will meet them there. This Easter, this year, where is Galilee for you and me? Where will we meet him?

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