## **EASTER BRINGS HOPE**

Hope Can Be
Luke 24:13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.  14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.  15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them.  16 But God kept them from recognizing him.  17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.  18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."  19 "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.  20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.  21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.  22 "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report.  23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!  24 Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."
Our Expectations Don't Come
We Hope For The Wrong
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Hope Can Be
To Those Who Have Him
Mark 16:1 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary

Mark 16:1 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body.

- 2 Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb.
- 3 On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"
- 4 But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.
- 5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked,
- 6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body.
- 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."
- 8 The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

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- John 20:11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in.
- 12 She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.
- 13 "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."
- 14 She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him.
- 15 "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."
- 16 "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

## Hope Can Be A \_\_\_\_\_ Today

- 1 Peter 1:17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land."
- 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.
- 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.
- 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.

- 21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.
- 22 You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.
- 23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

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