

Something Really Good

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

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Have you ever said to yourself, 'this could go really good or really bad'? We say this whenever we know something big is going to happen, but we don't yet know if it is for better or worse. All we know is the situation will not remain neutral.

On this Easter Sunday, we know something really good happened: Jesus Christ rose from the dead. In today's Gospel from John, however, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John didn't know that yet. If we read the passage carefully, we will realize that all they knew at this moment - early in the morning while it was still dark- was that the body of Jesus wasn't where they had put it. Mary Magdalene feared that someone stole the body of Jesus, perhaps to mess with his followers or to revoke Joseph of Arimathea's request to have Jesus' body after the crucifixion. Why wasn't his body there? As today's Gospel passage ends, it says, "for they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

In our lives, we often don't yet understand everything that is happening. Like the three apostles early in the morning before dawn (Mary Magdalene can be called an apostle), we are unsure what is taking place in the present moment. Something really good? Something really bad? We do not know because it is still too early to tell.

As morning broke and sun started to shed its light, though, the three Apostles came to realize that the body of Jesus was missing not

because something really bad happened, but because something really good happened- he rose from the dead! He walked out of the tomb himself. He was already on his way to Galilee. Throughout that glorious day and in the weeks to come, many more of his followers would come to understand the scriptures regarding the resurrection and come to believe.

The Risen Christ is still at work in the world in the present moment, even when we do not yet understand it. He is always a few steps out in front of us tracing paths of goodness, truth, justice, and mercy for us. He is leading us towards the fulfillment of the world when Christ will be all in all and he will hand everything back over to the Father. Too often, though, especially when we are unsure or don't understand, we forget this and begin to think the worst. We think something really bad is going to happen. All we see is the night. We do not realize that we are on the threshold of dawn. So instead of walking forward into the new day, we try to walk back into the night.

The Risen Christ calls us into the day ahead, even when we are still unsure of what is happening.

Do I usually predict that the worst is going to happen?

As we celebrate this Easter Sunday, let us look forward to each and every morning. Instead of thinking the worst of the day that awaits us, let us say, 'This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.'