

I Believe

Please note that I took some liberty with the Scriptures today, putting myself into the story. I hope you will see it as my own testimony to the joy of the Resurrection!

I arose this morning with a heavy heart. My Lord and Savior had been dead for two days. But when I arrived at the tomb this morning, to anoint his body, the stone was gone, I could not find Jesus. So I ran to find Simon Peter, I knew he would know what to do. I told Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, **"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."** I have never seen Peter so shocked, so concerned.

Peter left in haste to inspect the tomb. We all knew of Jesus' prediction that he would rise from the dead. Could it be true? Or had Pilate's soldiers desecrated his grave, taken his body? We had all witnessed the crucifixion. It was brutal, unforgiving and final. We had all seen Jesus' body laid in the tomb, watched his mother, Mary, weep in desperation at her loss. We were all lost without him!

Then Peter and the other disciple ran toward the tomb. I could not believe how the other disciple **"ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first."** Although he got there first, this disciple waited for Peter. I have been told that **"he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place."** So how could this be? Where was he? What had really happened here?

Then the other disciple also went in **"and he saw and believed."** Oh what joy filled me at the very thought that Jesus might be alive. What did that really mean? How can this be? It must be faith that allows this to be understood. I arose today not believing.

Now I believe that he truly rose from the dead. I believe that Jesus is alive. I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. His words, teachings, miracles and love surround all of me now. I believe that what was witnessed on that first morning is the Truth. I must carry it forward to the next generation so that this message will be given to the entire world as the greatest gift one can ever be given. I believe!

Happy Easter!


Sue Schettler