

April 13, 2020

Signs of His Love

John 20:3-7, “So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.”

After Jesus was crucified and laid in a tomb, the disciples were worried, hurting, scattered and afraid. Their whole lives had been turned upside down. How were they to carry on? What would they do now that their leader was gone? Even though He said He would rise again, they had seen Him die. How was it possible? Could it really happen? They were going to lay low and let all of this blow over.

But then, Mary Magdalene comes rushing in upset and shouting “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him!” Peter and John head to the tomb to see what has taken place. They run. Where could they have taken Him? What does this mean? What will they do now? But the answer was there when they arrived. Verse 7 holds the clue: and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

According to the tradition of the day, after a servant had set the table for the meal, He would wait just out of sight, until the family had finished with their meal. When each person finished eating, they would rise and take their napkin, wad it up, and toss it onto the table. This was a sign to the servant to clear their plate. But, if they got up and folded their napkin, setting it beside their plate, it was a signal: (Now get this!) I am not finished; I am coming back. When Jesus arose from the dead, He made sure to leave them this sign! I AM not finished; I AM coming back! Isn't that just like our Lord? In everything He does, He shows us His love for us. He was reminding a group of scared and confused disciples, I AM not done! I AM still at work! I still love you and will be with you!

Dear Father, I praise You that You are still at work. You haven't left us but instead sent us Your Holy Spirit to encourage, walk along side, and lead us where we need to go. You are so faithful! Thank You Jesus! In Jesus Name, Amen