

A Reflection for Day 8 – Easter Day

Luke 24: 1-12

Jesus rises from the dead

After 3 days, some of Jesus' women friends went to the tomb so that they could pour special oils on Jesus' body to help to preserve it. Let's hear from Luke's account what happened next.

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Now Jesus' women followers realized what had happened to Jesus. He had indeed beaten death and risen to new, everlasting, life. They had to tell the other disciples and, Peter, even when presented with the empty tomb, was still confused.

Jesus graciously allayed all the fears and confusion of his friends by appearing to them in person – to two of them on the road to Emmaus and later to all his friends who were locked in an upper room.

As their eyes were open to who Jesus really was, his friends and followers were able to spread the good news of Jesus the Saviour, the one who had beaten death. Word spread like wildfire around Jerusalem, around the country of Israel, around the world. And that news is still spreading around the world today as Christians share the good news that Jesus loves us so much that he died to break through the barrier of wrong things that block people from being children of God. And then he rose from the dead and is alive for ever! And that's why Christians celebrate Easter.