

“A Year with Jesus”

Week 14, Easter Week, Matthew 28:1-10

//Read the resurrection story in Matthew 28:1-10. Take time to reflect on what stands out to you in the story.

//One of the most beautiful things to witness is a remarkable sunset, especially when viewed over a pristine landscape like the ocean or a mountain vista. Equally as beautiful, though not seen as often (for obvious reasons), is the sunrise. The Bible uses the dawn of new mornings as a metaphor for God’s faithfulness, his love, and the hope of new beginnings. Look at these verses of the morning.

- Lamentations 3:22-23
- Psalm 143:8

Return now to the story of resurrection and take in the first phrase of verse one in these different translations.

- “After the Sabbath, at the dawn of the first day of the week” NIV
- “Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning” NLT
- “After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned” MSG

This dawning of a new day bookends Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus teaches others for the first time in Matthew by quoting from Isaiah 9...

“the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16

Jesus, in his arrival and now in his resurrection, brings a new light, a new hope, a new dawn.

//Thoughts for Reflection

-Take a moment and call to mind your own image of the dawn of new morning light brought forth by Jesus on that resurrection Sunday. What emotions, thoughts, ideas rise in you as you rest in this image of a new dawn?

-Choose to meditate on one of these words (or one of your own).

Faithfulness Hope Newness Joy

-The Old Testament passages from above, though themselves hopeful, are contained within chapters that speak of desperation and lament. How does the new dawn brought by Jesus’ resurrection speak into your specific struggles and sorrows? Hold these difficulties before God as you rest in the restoring light of resurrection.

//Special Challenge

Choose one day in the coming week to get up with and view the sunrise (or close to it), bringing with you the thoughts from this week’s devotion. Sit with God in thankful awareness of his faithfulness, his ability to make things new, and the hope brought about by Jesus’ resurrection.