

Mosaic Teaching Guide

24 April 2011

Easter

Teaching: *Easter Tears*

John 20.1-8

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Question for Everyone: Are you the kind of person who (1) cries easily when watching sentimental movie or would you (10) be better described as an ice queen or king, because you seldom if ever shed tears?

Mary Doesn't Know It's Easter

We enter the pain of our world, but we do so knowing that tears aren't always appropriate. Tears aren't the only honest response to this life. *Are*

you given to being overly morose about the brokenness of our world? Do you ever sense the need to smile and laugh and dance more?

Jesus Weeps at a Funeral

“Jesus is agitated and angry (at Lazarus’ graveside) because death causes those he loves so much pain. Perhaps Jesus weeps because those closest to him have yet to understand that he is resurrection and life.” *Have you noticed a difference between the ways Christians grieve as compared to those of no faith? Should there be a difference? . . .* But then Jesus comes along to say “no” to death. He comes to dethrone death from its dark reign. Jesus claims to be resurrection and life beyond death, claims to swallow death, and claims to take the sting of death. And we are left to reconsider some of the tears we shed. We are left to ask whether or not we can trust this One who claims to be resurrection and life. *If you are a Christian, how is it that you have come to trust Jesus? If you are not, how is it that you have decided not to trust Jesus?*

Mary’s Tears

“People weep in our world today because of a multitude of loss, just like Mary. Some weep because their freedom has been taken from them. Some weep because their children have been taken from them. Some weep because their spouse has been taken from them. . . .” *Living in this post-resurrection doesn’t mean that we never cry. Why is this?*

Resurrection as a Way of Life

“Across 28 years of ministry I have learned that not only is Easter theologically essential, it is pastorally necessary” (Kenneth Carter). “For Christians, Easter is the moment in history when God in Christ said that death, decay, disease and dysfunction will not get the final word” “*Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor is not in*” (1 Cor. 15:58). “We believe that resurrection isn’t just a future hope to confess in faith but a present reality in which to participate now.”

Why Are You Weeping?

“Mary is weeping because she doesn’t know its Easter.” *What causes you to shed tears? Think about the last time you cried. What does this teach you about yourself?*