

Saturday, the day in between Good Friday & the Resurrection of Jesus Christ...

THE DISCIPLES

Every year when we come to this 'day in between,' I think of how the Disciples must have felt. I wonder if this was the second worst day of their lives. They were told numerous times, and in many ways (by Jesus Himself) that Jesus was going to die and rise again, but they still had some problems believing it. We don't really have an account of what they did on that Saturday, only that they were 'hiding' on the EVENING of the resurrection! (John 20:19) This is after they had witnessed the empty tomb earlier that morning! For the eleven Disciples, we can only assume that Saturday was a pretty rough, anxiety-filled, and depressing day indeed.

THE WOMEN

What about for the women who had followed Jesus for three years? I wonder how they felt? They had wanted to prepare Jesus' body on Friday after His death, but it was so close to sundown on the Sabbath (and no one could work on the Sabbath), the only thing they could do was watch Joseph of Arimathea as he wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. (Matt. 27:57-61) The women had planned to do a proper job of the burial of Jesus' body on Sunday. As we all know now, they had a surprise waiting for them at the tomb. NO BODY! I wonder what they did on Saturday? Maybe they were prepping the burial spices, getting everything ready for Sunday. I'm guessing that they were not depressed, hiding or afraid, just purpose-driven to perform and complete the task that they had wanted to start on Friday. That notwithstanding, I imagine it was not such a good day for the women who followed Jesus either.

MARY'S MEMORIES

Then there's Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This day had to be a horrible day for her as well. As she (total conjecture on my part here!) relived, remembered, and recapped her son's life: remembering all the miraculous events surrounding Jesus' birth; the way Jesus was born, the angels, the long trip to Bethlehem; then maybe chuckling as she remembered that time when she, Joseph, and the whole caravan 'forgot' Jesus in Jerusalem when He was twelve years old; when the panic-stricken, exhausted parents (and angry people of the caravan) went back to find

Him, all He had said was, "Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" (Lk. 2:39-52) Then there was the time at the wedding in Cana which Mary was apparently catering, that they ran out of wine. Even though it wasn't the time for Jesus to make His official start to 'ministry,' He still did a miracle for His Mom, just because she asked Him to help her. Good times. Then, just six days ago she had watched as all of Jerusalem came out with palm branches to celebrate Jesus as their King shouting, "Hosanna in the Highest!" The best day of her life? But then just two days ago on Thursday they arrested Jesus...and for what? Jealousy? Fear? Then there was yesterday. That was a horrifying day in anyone's life, but for a mother to watch her son, beaten beyond recognition, mocked, spat upon, humiliated, and finally nailed to a cross... this had to be the worst day of Mary's life. Only God Himself could've gotten each of those people I've mentioned through that horrific day of the crucifixion. This brings us to today. The day that we can see now as the 'day in between' death and life, but for those who were living then, they had only memories of Jesus' words that He would rise again on the third day. Those 'phrases of resurrection' were blown into a million pieces by the grief and sadness of the events of yesterday... Maybe Mary was pondering these things on the day in between. Maybe.

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Ironically, it seems that the only ones who actually remembered and believed that Jesus would rise from the grave were the Religious Leaders. They went to Pilate to ask for a seal on the tomb-stone and guards to make sure that the "disciples didn't steal Jesus' body." (Matt. 27:62-66) Were they really afraid that the disciples would steal Jesus' body? NO! They were afraid that Jesus might actually rise from the grave! This is what the Chief Priests and Pharisees were busy doing on the 'day in between.'

US

Now, we know what happened 'tomorrow,' so all we can do is live in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus today, but that's because we have the privilege of 'knowing' the past. As folks on the 'other side' of that 'day in between,' we can rejoice that yes, 'Friday really happened, but Sunday's a comin'!

THE 'DAY IN BETWEEN' FOR US TODAY

If you think about it, people are still living in the 'day in between' in a sense. Regardless of whether we are in the 'Easter' season or not, some people are living in fear and depression, or in a numbness, or in some kind of despondency. Why? Because some people still can't believe what Jesus said He would do. It all comes down to faith. You may have had the worst day of your life' recently or even many years ago, or just yesterday, and while you can't change what happened, you are *trapped in the tomb of that event*. We have to get past the 'day in between.' We have to know that Jesus will bring life into every situation. As believers in Jesus Christ, we have the promise of LIFE at EVERY turn, but only if we approach it with faith and hope. Hope is expectation. Hope says, yes, this was a terrible event, but God is going to, somehow, some way make it right and good again (Romans 8:28). He promised that HE would NEVER leave me or forsake me. Choosing to believe God's Word will get us through all those 'days in between death and life...' So, don't ever give up. As long as we have breath, there is hope.

We shouldn't get stuck in the 'day in between' with depression, mulling over the events of the past, or trying to distract ourselves by immersing ourselves in someone else's 'reality' on tv. INSTEAD, we should strive to live that day to its fullest, believing that death may have just slammed us in the face, but life is just about to knock on our door!

Jesus is in control of every day: from the day of His birth, to that day in Jerusalem when He was twelve, to His triumphal entry, to His trial and beating, to His crucifixion, to the second day in the grave, to the glorious day of His resurrection, and finally to His return for us.

Are you hiding, or fearful, or depressed because of something that happened to you in the past? Or are you living this 'day in between' like you know the future? By faith, we can know that the other side of this day holds new life and hope because Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life and because we have His promise that He is coming soon to take us home! Revelation 22:20

By faith I say to you today, **"Have a Happy 'Day in Between!'"**

Shalom! D