

- Ten hushed disciples waiting in the upper room - fearful, uncertain what to do next, when Jesus appears in their midst and says, "Peace be with you."

After all the public pronouncements at Jesus' birth, the tumult of His life, and the public horror of His death, I must confess that I like the peace and quiet of Easter Morning. The Resurrection unfolds entirely in a series of intimate conversations between Jesus and His followers. It's all family business. As He did with Mary, Jesus rises for each of us and calls us by name. The promise is for everyone, but the experience of Easter is only for those who believe and have longed for His appearing.

(Excerpted from Chapter Twenty, "A Violent Grace" © 2010, Michael Card)

*Delhi Bible Fellowship
Central Delhi Congregation*

*Home/ POL Groups
Communion Service*



*Passion Week
April 2010*

Good Friday

Read: Isaiah 53:1 – 6

These verses describe for us the Lord Jesus when came to the earth 2000 years ago. They tell us that He was ordinary in appearance, just as any other person. His humanity was highlighting for us the full extent to which He would identify with those whom He came to save (Phil 2:6, 7). He was familiar with suffering, despised and rejected by people. The punishment that was due us was put upon Him. He was smitten by God! Our sin is that we have turned away from God, each to our own way, and the judgement of God for this was put upon the Lord Jesus.

Read: Isaiah 53:7 – 9

These words remind us of the words of Jesus when He said, "I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11). Jesus willingly laid down His life (John 10:18). He did not kick and scream in protest, but out of a desire to do His Father's will and a great love for His people, He willingly laid down His life. He was hung between two common criminals, but was buried in the tomb of a rich man – both a fulfilment of verse 9. All this He took upon Himself, even though He Himself deserved nothing!

Read: Isaiah 53:10 – 12

These amazing words tell us that the suffering and death of Christ were part of God's plan. It was not an accident, or a plan gone wrong because of wicked people (Acts 2:23). However, His death was not an end in itself. It was a means to end – He rose again, so that all those who trust in Him will also be raised to life. The Lord Jesus rose and ascended into heaven,

where He sits in the seat of power, at the right hand of God. From there He reigns and rules over all creation. One day He will return and firmly establish His rule over all that is rightfully His!

Easter

He Arose Again

So I Might Experience Eternal Life

"By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also."

I Corinthians 6:14

It is hard for me to imagine Jesus' tone of voice other than touched with quiet laughter. - "Mary... ."

Just the sound of her name spoken by the Master began Mary's own resurrection story. Jesus was not stolen, but risen. And He had risen for her.

The stories of Mary and the others who personally encountered Jesus on Resurrection morning are among the all-time favorites for Christians. These stories speak to us of hope, of new beginnings, of victory over tears and disappointment, of eventual triumph over death, and of joy. Most of all, they remind of us of who we are: We belong to Him, and He to us. We are the people of Resurrection morning, when new life in Christ prevailed over violence, and the age of amazing grace began.

But have you ever noticed how quietly the grace of Easter arrived? No angelic choirs heralded Jesus' return from the grave. No foreign dignitaries arrived bearing gifts. No voice thundered from heaven.

The sounds of the Resurrection are different. They are much more personal:

- Muffled voices at dawn, the sound of sandals passing the streets;
- Her name hanging in the morning air, and Mary's gasp of recognition;
- Peter and John whispering as they hurry back to town - wondering, hoping, wanting so much to believe;
- Three men walking together toward Emmaus, talking quietly among themselves - two heartbroken at the death of a dream, the third trying to restore their hope;