



In the Mo(u)rning - 4.5.26

Goal: Sorrow may have the night, but it does not have to have our lives.

Scripture: *Mark 9:16-24; Psalm 30:5; John 15:11; 16:16-22; 20:1-18; Isaiah 49:16; Matthew 5:4*

Overview:

Life has a way of taking the life out of us. When it does (bad things happening to good people, children suffering) our belief system takes a hit. The truths we believe about God, collide with the life we are experiencing. In these moments, we don't need another coffee cup cliché or pep talk. Self-help books or podcasts might get us through a bad mood or rough moment but what about an abusive childhood or a crippling accident or years of chronic pain or public ridicule or a messy divorce. I don't have to tell you that. You already know that.

Weeping may last through the night, and the next night, and the next. This is not new news to you. and it's not meant to be. The story of Easter takes place over three days. A public crucifixion on Friday, private questioning on Saturday, and powerful resurrection on Sunday. Easter teaches us how to deal with the tension between our Good Fridays and Resurrection Sundays.

Because no matter how old we are or how good we are or how wealthy or how healthy we are, at some point in our lives we will experience the vast array of emotions of these three days. *"Weeping may last through the night but JOY comes in the morning."* (Psalm 30:5).

Application:

- The greatest news in the world is not that God made the world, but that God loves the world.
- You don't earn this love. His love for you will not end if you lose your temper. His love for you will not fade if you lose your way. His love for you will not diminish if your discipline does. You will never live one day unloved.
- Someone told you God loves good people. Wrong. There are no good people.
- Someone told you God loves you if you love Him first. Wrong. He loves people who have never thought of Him. He loved first.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a "Friday" of life? A day filled with grief?
2. Describe a time your faith took a hit?
3. What did you do?
4. How do you mourn? Are you good at grieving?
5. Have you ever experienced a "Saturday"? A day filled with confusion?
6. Have you ever experienced a "Sunday"? A day filled with new life?
7. Describe a time mourning turned to joy?
8. How do you rejoice? Are you good at rejoicing?
9. What do you think it would have been like for Mary Magdalen to hear her name?
10. Why do you think Jesus appeared first to her? Does that encourage you today?