

Passion Week *Devotionals*

Holy Saturday
by Aaron Ward

Read | Matthew 27.62-66; Luke 23.50-56

August 9th, 2019, was just a normal start to the day for me. I woke up and started getting ready for work. My beautiful wife Baylee got up with me and came out of the bathroom with a look on her face so that I knew something was wrong. She said that her water just broke. The problem was she was only 22 weeks and 5 days pregnant. We went to the hospital, and they transferred us to Springfield Mercy. The next several hours were crazy.

Doctors coming in and out, specialist coming in and out. But there was one common theme: prepare to bury your child. Most of the doctors and all the specialists said that it's over 90% that our baby boy will not survive. Fast forward ten weeks..... our baby boy was born on October 19th. He came out yelling at the world but quickly needed medical help. Baylee got to hold him for a few minutes and then his care team and I went to NICU. Things went downhill very fast there. I was sitting in the chair in the room and praying in ways I have never prayed. I had my face in my hands praying when the nurse tapped me on the shoulder and said Aaron you need to leave because you don't want to see us have to tube your baby. I got up and started the 5-minute walk to Baylee's room. Our prayer for 10 weeks had been that Ezra wouldn't need to have intervention when he came into this world.

Matthew 27: 62-66 story is one of doubt and speculation. The Pharisees were mocking Jesus. They knew what he said but still mocked him. I wonder how many other people during that time didn't believe Jesus when he said in 3 days I will rise. They were the specialists of religion that were telling people this is impossible.

The story of Luke 23: 50-56 is one of uncertainty. People who believed in Jesus knew what he said and knew the truth but were hurting so bad that they couldn't comprehend or even fathom that Jesus after being beaten tortured in the way he just could come back from death. They knew that there was over 90% chance that this miracle was impossible.

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There are still people in today's world that are sitting and waiting for a miracle. They have prayed for 10 weeks for a healthy beautiful baby boy to be born without complications. They have been sitting in the battle around them tired, worn out, and the only thing that keeps them going is faith. They don't know what the end will be. They know the truth that God does the impossible but the waiting game makes holding onto that truth sometimes hard. Then you add in the outside world like in Matthew and the seed of doubt starts to be planted in your heart. Then in Luke you have the people that wanted to believe but could they hold on for 3 days and know that the Jesus was going to come back to life.

When Baylee and I returned to Ezra's room he didn't have to have a breathing tube. He just needed a mask. The baby boy that only had a 10% chance of surviving was breathing on his own..... the doctors couldn't believe it.

Prayer & Reflection:

- ***Which story are you? Are you the one that knows the truth but still mocks it? Are the one that knows the truth but is getting tired and weary of sitting in the dark waiting for the miracle?***
- ***If you are like the Pharisees why? What has caused you to have authority over God's promises?***
- ***If you are like Joseph and the women. Do you believe in the miracle or pretend like you do? If you believe are you prepared to wait? If you are pretending why haven't you given it to the Lord?***

"Dear Jesus please give me the strength to not doubt you. Please give me the strength to stand up to the Pharisees in my life. Please help me not allow them to plant seeds of doubt in my heart. God give me the strength while I wait for the miracle that you promise. Please give me the strength to run this marathon towards your promises. In Jesus name, Amen"