

# Holy Week - Saturday

## Scripture Reading

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Luke 23:54-56

## Devotional

It is Holy Saturday, a Sabbath day. Jesus' body lies in the tomb. The one who many saw as the long awaited Messiah, the one in whom they had put their hopes is dead. The disciples are hiding, as most of them have been since Jesus was arrested in the garden a few nights ago. Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women from Galilee followed Jesus to the bitter end. Not only did they stay in sight of the cross until Jesus died, they then followed Joseph of Arimathea to see where he laid Jesus' body. Then the women hurry home to prepare the spices and ointments needed to give Jesus a proper burial. Now the ladies wait as they observe the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a day of rest instituted by God early on in the story of the Israelites. The roots of the Sabbath go all the way back to creation of the world (Genesis 2:2-3). Just as God rested from creation on the seventh day, now people are called to rest on the seventh day of the week. God declared the Sabbath holy (Exodus 20:8-II) and was a gift given to the people of God by God for them to rest from their work and enjoy God's creation.

Here we see the women resting on the Sabbath. They must be filled with confusion, hurt, disappointment, and pain. The one they thought to be the Messiah now lays dead in a tomb. The triumphal entry seems like so long ago. How could it end like this? Now they simply want to provide Jesus with a proper burial, but we find them resting on the Sabbath according to the commandment. In the midst of the confusion, hurt, disappointment, and pain of the past few days, the women act in accordance with the Scriptures, an act of trust in God. They may not fully understand what is going on, but we see them following the way God. When life is filled with confusion, hurt, disappointment, and pain; when the dream appears to die, relationships get harder than you ever imagined, when God's actions seem mystifying, where do you turn? Do you go your own way? Or in your pain and confusion put your trust in God and follow after him according to the commandment?

## Response

Take some time to think through these questions:

- Where do you turn when life gets difficult and confusing? To trust in your own way or to stay connected to the way of God?
- What acts of spiritual formation do you need to ingrain in your life today?
- Spend some time in prayer asking God where you need to trust God more.

