

RAISED for More: Hope Springs Eternal

Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

If something _____ you get as much mileage out of it as you can! So, MADE for More → RAISED for More!

Good Friday is important. But without _____ Jesus is just another failed rebel. Lame story! Lame ending!

The grandson in "The Princess Bride" stopped the story several times because it was heading in a lame direction. He wanted more than _____; a dead princess; Prince Humperdinck; victorious villain; _____ hero. Fortunately for him, there was always MORE to the story.

Easter is MORE than _____, chocolate, jelly beans, egg hunts, pastels and _____. Easter is about _____ and the _____ that Good Friday was not and is not the _____ of the story.

In John 20 we read about how Mary and the disciples discovered that Jesus was no longer in the _____. But their first thought was not _____. They assumed someone had added insult to injury and _____ his body. It never crossed their mind that he might actually be _____ just like he _____.

We get like that too. We _____ the worst. Life is so _____. It can make us pessimistic and cynical.

But Jesus is _____. The disciples go back home. Mary _____ at the tomb. She sees someone and STILL assumes the worst! "It's just the gardener. Maybe HE took Jesus' _____." But then, "_____!"

_____ and _____ sprang forth! Her grief was _____! The One she cherished was back! (Luke 8:1-3)

What would it feel like if you _____ the person you owe your own life...and suddenly they are _____?

But wait...there's MORE! Jesus was raised for MORE. He tells her, "*Do not _____ to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father...*" Jesus will go to _____ to rule and reign, bringing all things together for good. He will also then _____ and give resurrection life to ALL who trust in him. *Hallelujah! Christ is risen!*

This means: (1) the One who overcame evil, suffering, and death is _____ in our worst circumstances.
(2) until the ending is _____ it's NOT OVER. *There is always MORE to our story in Jesus.*
(3) knowing that can give us _____ and _____ to endure more than we think.

In Jesus there is always hope. There is hope in this life. But the greatest and surest hope is in the next.

But wait...there's MORE! Jesus _____ Mary with a message. We are not given this hope simply to have whatever we want in this life. Our hope in this life and in the next is one that is meant to be _____.

What are the difficult and painful parts of your story? How might God be working for good in them?

How is God calling you to be more hopeful and trust him for MORE in this life?

How is God asking you to trust that the hope of MORE for eternity is enough to sustain you no matter what?

Where might God be sending you with the message of hope?

What are you going to DO about it?