



Easter Reflection 2020 Jesus Calling

Dear Friends,

Some of what I have written here was part of a reflection which I wrote for Easter 2019. I'm offering this to you again, with some revision, with a message that I feel is so important for us to remember . . . a message which is truly the source of our hope . . . a message that I pray will offer you a sense of peace in these challenging times.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said to him,

"Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

John 20:15-16

As I was preparing my thoughts for this Easter Reflection, I hesitated at first to use this story of Resurrection from John's gospel. I've used this account so many times over the years. As I read through this beautiful story again, however, I realized that it speaks so powerfully to these uncertain times we are living through.

Mary, left alone at the empty tomb, is in total despair. She has not only gone through her teacher's passion and death but now has found that somehow his body is missing. She does not recognize Jesus but thinks he is a gardener; she doesn't recognize Jesus until he speaks her name: "Mary!" Simply by speaking her name, Jesus calls Mary from darkness to light, from despair to hope.

We can find ourselves feeling much like Mary these days . . . feeling lost and helpless as we hear reports of what is happening in our world, in our country, in our community. We fear for ourselves and for those we love and care for . . . we long for all that we are missing. We can become so lost in our own "Good Friday" that we forget that we are never left there . . . every Good Friday is followed by an Easter Sunday. We are an Easter people, we can never forget that, knowing that the Son has come . . . the Son has risen . . . with hope, we know that all be well . . . a new day is coming! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3)

As I close this reflection, I pray that this Easter Season will hold countless blessings for you, my friends. May we all remain strong and faithful and faith-filled in these challenging times. May we take the time to prayerfully listen for the sound of our name, calling us from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from pain to healing . . . calling us to be all that we were created to be. Know that you are always in my thoughts and in my prayers . . . remembered and loved and cared for. May God bless and keep you always in His care.

Love and Prayers,
Mike Jeremiah
Campus Minister