

Saturday - April 19

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.
Mark 15:42-47 -NIV

The scrape of the stone rolling in front of this tomb. The last time they would see Jesus. How heartbreaking. No one expected it to end like this.

All the walking to new experiences, the stories Jesus told, all the hope he had given. No more. All the healings... but wait, they still ARE healed. The little girl and Lazarus are still alive after death! There is something of Jesus still here. Could it be that there is more to this story?

"It was the day of preparation." That's referring to the Jewish Sabbath in the midst of Passover. The celebration of liberation from the ancient Egyptians when God led the people out of darkness, out of bondage to a new experience through and across the Red Sea.

But now, for Joseph of Arimathea, the women watching as the stone is covering their friend and teacher, and the disciples... all has gone dark.

For us, Holy Saturday is a time of waiting - knowing that the resurrection is just around the corner. It can be a "day of preparation". We must be ready for the resurrection and believe that that God has overcome death. We can walk into new experiences, we will understand the stories that Jesus told in a new way, there will be hope! And we can be part of the healing Jesus brings to the world. Holy Saturday is not a day to be overlooked. It is our day to be ready to do the next thing God has imagined for us.

Kim La Rue

Prayer: Holy and life-giving God, your world is not always the way you created it. But you continue to create hope, light and life that we can be a part of. Help us to recognize it and be ready to move. Amen.