

Were You There continued:

A silent day followed a fitful night; the seventh day, Saturday. The disciples had grown used to the hustle and bustle of crowds around Jesus. The hope for another healing, or better yet a miracle, was still ringing in their hearts. That ringing was quickly drowned out by dread and despair. For the last three years, not just their life, but their whole identity had been consumed with Jesus. Now what? Did they even know who they were? If someone asked, "Who are you?" What would they say? "I used to follow someone that I thought was the Messiah, but now, I'm just a nobody." Maybe they felt like Naomi after the deaths of her husband and two sons. "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara" ("Don't call me 'Beautiful,' call me 'Bitter'" Ruth 1:20).

On the eighth day the weather just didn't feel right. It must have felt as though the sun would never shine again. How could it? Its Creator was dead. The storm that flooded at the moment of Jesus's death had cleared and the sun gave rise to promise. The women mournfully left for the tomb while the disciples silently breathed a sigh of relief that it was not their job to anoint that bloodied disfigurement of a body. How anyone could call that a body puzzled the mind. Never before had they seen anyone nailed to a cross become so disfigured. How could they have realized that the weight of the world's sin and the assault of all diseases and all instruments of death had fallen upon Him. These signs He bore on His body. His burial cloth looked more like a scarlet blanket than a funeral pall. How horrible it would be to remove that bloody mess.

In silence they sat there. Not all the disciples were there. We know for sure that Peter and John were present. Where *there* is, we are not quite sure, but the Upper Room seemed to be a safe place. Shock, awe, and disbelief are just a few emotions these two dealt with when the women burst into the room, "He is not there, He has risen! The angels told us so! Jesus Himself told us!" Both hope and doubt filled Peter as he rushed to the tomb to judge for himself the fate of Jesus's body.

How do you feel? It is easy for us to forget the tragedy of that first Holy Week. We know on Monday that there will be a celebration on Sunday. The disciples did not know this. So, for them, Holy Week seemed very unholy. Good Friday really did seem like Black Friday.

To say that Jesus endured a lot is the world's greatest understatement. He endured it for you and for me. How does that make you feel? "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

Your servant,



PLEASE JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AT 6:00PM IN THE DINING AREA FOR GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

APRIL 6

**SESAME CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES
LIMA BEANS
ROLLS & DESSERT**

For reservations or cancellations please call the church office by April 4

APRIL 13

**HAM
SWEET POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS & DESSERT**

For reservations or cancellations please call the church office by April 11

APRIL 20

SEDER MEAL

For reservations or cancellations please call the church office by April 18

APRIL 27

**PORK CHOPS
MACARONI & CHEESE
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS & DESSERT**

For reservations or cancellations please call the church office by April 25