

Holy Saturday – 3/22

"The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed along behind. They saw the tomb and how His body was buried. Then they went home to prepare spices and perfumes." (Luke 23:55-56)

Recently a woman witnessed a gunman kill a judge in a courtroom. Right before her eyes she watched in horror as the man aimed the gun and fired. When asked later about the experience she stated, "It was unbelievable! It was unbelievable! One minute life is normal and the next minute the world crashes around you."

The women who followed the burial procession of Jesus must have felt the same way. Just a few short days before they had followed Jesus to Jerusalem and they must have been joyful. They believed in Jesus, and they must have thought that this going to Jerusalem would be a great experience for their prophet. They were light hearted as they traveled. Life was good; and when Jesus is proclaimed the Messiah, life would be even better. In an instant of betrayal their dreams turned to dust.

As they followed the body of Jesus to his tomb their feet must have hardly been able to support them. Their hearts were broken and they were bewildered by the swiftness of the events that had just taken place. Their beloved friend has died suddenly and terribly. They had moved from the mountaintop of hope to the valley of death in the blink of an eye.

Fortunately their story does not end at the cross or with their grieving. They don't allow this tragedy to immobilize them. Once they learn where Jesus' body will rest they become women of action. They go home to prepare the oils and spices with which they will anoint Jesus' body. Their dreams may seem to have vanished but they have not yet done all that they can do for Jesus. They had learned from their Lord that we give until there is nothing left to give.

Giving is not easy but giving when our hearts are drowning in grief seems impossible. Simple acts of kindness become arduous tasks that demand more energy than we seem to possess. On this quiet day of silence let these women speak. Let them tell their story of grief but let them tell about their service as well. And remember that because of their desire to give one more time to Jesus they would receive on Easter morning indescribable joy.

Reflection Questions for Reflection

- 1. What actions do I take for Jesus?*
- 2. How much more could I give?*

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the gift of these holy women. May their example stir my heart to do whatever I can for You and for Your people. Amen.