

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Luke 24:1-12
Monday	Matthew 27:62-28:10; Psalm 63; Proverbs 11:1-4
Tuesday	Mark 16:1-8; Psalm 64; Proverbs 11:5-7
Wednesday	John 20:1-10; Psalm 65:1-5; Proverbs 11:8-10
Thursday	John 11:17-27; Psalm 65:6-13; Proverbs 11:11-13
Friday	I Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 66:1-4; Proverbs 11:14-17
Saturday	Romans 6:1-14; Psalm 66:5-12; Proverbs 11:18-21

DEVOTIONAL: READ LUKE 24:1-12

After Jesus had been crucified, it must have seemed to Jesus' followers, friends, and family that everything they had hoped for was no longer possible. We know that Jesus defeated death and brings new life to those who trust in Him, but those experiencing the events as they were happening had forgotten to trust what Jesus said He would do.

In Luke 24, a group of women came to the tomb where they believed Jesus' body to be laid. They were caught in a moment of crisis and disbelief as they found an empty tomb. They stood perplexed when two angels appeared to them. The women were frightened, but the angels lead them to remember what Jesus had told them. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember

how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" (Luke 24:5b-7). The women heard this and remembered His words. They ran to tell the disciples what they had found.

So often we can forget the promises of God. We fail to trust that He will do what He says, or even fail to trust that He has done what He has already done. God always does what He says He will do! This Easter let us be reminded that Jesus has defeated death. He has given new life to those who believe in Him. He is coming back, and we have a future with Him. He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would!

REFLECTION

What are the promises that God has made? Thank Him that He has kept, and will keep, each of these promises.

Specifically, how does the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead impact your daily life now? How does it impact your future?

As soon as the women “remembered” the words of Jesus, they went and told the rest of the disciples that the tomb was empty. Who do you know that needs to hear these encouraging words about Jesus? Reach out this week and remind them of Jesus’ faithfulness.

DISCUSSION

What is one of the biggest turning points in your life?

PRAYER

Jesus, all my hope is in You. Every joy on this earth is empty if there is no resurrection; every pain is lethal if You did not defeat death. But You did conquer the grave. You are risen. I believe! Help my unbelief.

I believe You bore the sin of the world on the cross. Forgive me for trying to hide my sin, pretending to have it all together. I believe You buried the shame of the world in that grave. Teach me to leave mine there. I believe You were raised to life again. Help me trust I will be raised with You. I believe, Lord! Help my unbelief.

Thank You for saving me, Jesus. Thank You for disarming the power of sin, removing the sting of death, and releasing the hold of shame. Thank You for giving me real, abundant, eternal life!

You are risen! You are risen indeed! Amen.