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Between the cross and the resurrection, there is a silence.
And in that space, we find people just like us:

- Grieving
- Confused
- Unsure what God is doing

JESUS REALLY DIED

⁵⁷ As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, ⁵⁸ went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. ⁶⁰ He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. ⁶¹ Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching. **Matthew 27:57-61 NLT**

Joseph of Arimathea was different:

- A disciple of Jesus.
- Someone who stepped forward when others stepped back.
- He gives Jesus his own tomb.

SEAL THE TOMB

⁶² The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. ⁶³ They told him, "Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise from the dead.'" ⁶⁴ So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we'll be worse off than we were at first." ⁶⁵ Pilate replied, "Take guards and secure it the best you can." ⁶⁶ So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it. **Matthew 27:62-66 NLT**

- "After three days I will rise from the dead."
- Secure it the best you can.

JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

¹ Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." ⁸ The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. ⁹ And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there." **Matthew 28:1-10 NLT**

What we fear most is no match for the power of God.

- Death
- The grave
- Hell

We can lean into what was said to the women at the tomb...

- **Death is defeated** – "He isn't here."
- **Hope is alive** – "He has risen."
- **God keeps His promises** – "just as He said."

Good News – The Gospel

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." **Romans 1:16-17 NLT**

- It's faith in God's plan of redemption.
- It's faith in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.
- It's faith in Jesus and His resurrection.
- It's the only thing that can truly transform the human heart.