

# LWML *Texas* District

Easter Monday, April 10, 2023

Meditation

## Surprise!

Children around the world are coming down from a sugar high today. We often celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through egg hunts filled with little goodies. A favorite in some families are the eggs that are empty. When the kids find an empty egg, they get excited, because they know there is a much bigger surprise waiting for them at the end of the hunt.

The empty eggs remind us of the empty grave on Easter. While we all enjoy a good chocolate candy, the reward of the empty grave and what it means for us as believers is far grander than any candy could ever compare.

My least favorite part of the tradition of Easter egg hunts is hiding all the eggs. Filling them does not seem to be as much of a chore as putting them all out and waiting. We are reminded: *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his* (Romans 6:3–5).

Without the agony of the cross on Good Friday, and the waiting, we would not have the celebration of Easter. Had Jesus not died, we would not have freedom in Him. I can only imagine the difficulties of His disciples, as they waited at the foot of the cross, seeing their beloved teacher and Savior die an excruciating death firsthand.

It would have been unimaginably difficult, especially for Mary the mother of Jesus. They knew Jesus' teachings. They knew He said He would rebuild the temple in three days. They knew He said He would fulfill the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:39–41). He said He would go into the heart of the earth. But did they REALLY know?

I don't think they imagined how it would all play out during the Passover week. Could they have known? Thankfully, as Paul Harvey once said, "now you know the rest of the story." As present-day believers we are immeasurably blessed! We not only know the rest of the story and how it ends, but we also have the Bible available to us whenever we desire to read it.

Another gift we have is contemporary archeology showing us physical proof of Biblical events. We have physical evidence pointing directly back to God's Word! We also have the teachings of many theologians, church fathers, and commentaries to dive deeper into God's Word to understand more profoundly the meanings held within His word for us. We can utilize websites, books, apps, and even YouTube videos to learn Biblical Hebrew and ancient Greek to read God's Word in the original languages. We are a blessed people.

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others, so they too may have this precious gift of faith in Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit. We have been called to share it, as it says, *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”* (Romans 10:14–16).

We are being sent out to share Jesus with the lost and dying. Let us do this faithfully, to God’s glory alone!

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