

Pastor Zech's March Article Missing from the Messenger

And I Hope

I know you've heard this before, but I'll say it again. Holy Week is my favorite week of the year! There's something about it that always grabs my heart and my life. The waving of the palm branches and shouts of Hosanna! The washing of the disciples' feet and a new covenant given on Maundy Thursday. The power of the Passion story and Jesus being crucified. And of course the power of the empty tomb and a proclamation "He is not here He Is Risen!" This week is at the center of who I am, and I get energized every year for this week.

But, as I think about Holy Week, I realize there is a lot of wandering going on during that week. A reminder, the theme for this Lenten season is "Wandering Heart" and we follow Peter as he wanders his way with Jesus through faith. In Holy week we see lots of questions being asked and a lot of wandering. But there's also a lot of hope. On Palm Sunday there's so much excitement as they enter Jerusalem, so much hope that the Messiah would come in victory and go to war with the rulers of this world. Hope that the persecution and being under the thumb of Rome would come to an end. This continues through the week. On Maundy Thursday Peter doesn't understand why Jesus would lower himself to the form of a servant. The Messiah shouldn't wash my feet, I should wash his. And my feet are not enough what about my whole body. That same night Jesus tells everyone again he must suffer and die. But Peter is his wanderings says, never Lord, I will never leave you or deny you. And yet, moving into Good Friday we see Peter flee, and deny that he knew Jesus three times. And after the Death of Jesus, they hide together wondering what is to happen next, the Messiah is dead and we're most likely next. The hope became hopeless. The straight path became crooked, and they wandered away. Yet, Easter morning came. The women run back to tell the disciples he is Risen! And Peter sprints to the tomb. He saw no body, and knew everything had changed, and also wondered what does this mean? Eventually he would see the Risen Lord, and his wandering with Jesus was forever changed. But his hope was built on Christ.

Easter is a time of hope, no matter where our wandering has taken us. But we know, that because he lives he continues to call to us, and bring us back. In my wanderings I hope, I hope for the future, I hope that others will come to know Jesus, I hope that when I wonder off Jesus will bring me back again, I hope the message is clear, I hope for new life in Christ, and I hope that in your wanderings you know Christ is wandering with you too. My hope is in Christ alone. And because the tomb is empty, I know this hope is not in vain. I hope you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter! And I hope you know the Risen Christ goes with you always through all your wanderings and wonderings.

I look forward to seeing you soon, Interlinked in Christ.
Pastor Zech Anderson