

Personal Devotion

Hope-Making Sense out of Nonsense • Week of April 12

God makes sense out of nonsense. To a skeptical world, Scriptural faith itself is nonsense. But from the beginning, God is a God who works in ways we will perhaps never fully understand. The LORD speaks and creation commences. He alone sustains this world, and cares for us when we sin. He delays judgment and showers us with mercies. God calls a 75-year-old man to leave and go hundreds of miles away, to a land already inhabited. The man and his barren wife trust God for a son whose descendants become as numerous as sands on the shore and stars in the sky. God makes sense out of nonsense because God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8).

Read Luke 24:1-12

1. When the women told the disciples that they had seen the Risen Lord, 'the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.' Think of a time the Lord made sense out of something utterly nonsensical to you. What did you learn about God during that time? What did you learn about yourself (and perhaps others)?

What are you learning today about how 'God makes sense out of nonsense' – make yourself write down at least one thing that comes to mind.

Scripture is filled with a plethora of examples recounting the many ways God makes sense out of nonsense. Think about it: God calling a nation for Himself out of another hostile nation (Deuteronomy 4:32-34); Placing a shepherd boy on the throne as king (1 Samuel 16:1); Calling fishermen to be apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:16-18) – just to name a few. And there is the virgin, Mary, who gives birth to God's Son, John the Baptist who announces the coming Kingdom of the Lord in the Judean desert, and another John exiled on Patmos who sees a glimpse into Heaven, coming world events, and the victorious Christ in His ultimate glory.

Upon arrival to the empty tomb, the women are surprised to hear two angels ask: "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that He would rise again on the third day" (vv5-7). Then they remembered that the Lord had said this.

2. Why is it so difficult to remember the Lord's Words (His truth and promises) when we are in a place of deep despair or darkness?

How has this season of 'pandemic' caused you *to look up* to the Lord?

Stepping into faith instead of being stuck in fear is nonsense, isn't it? Or does it make perfect sense to believe God when we are at the end of our rope! Christ's love makes no sense – He took the cross, forgave as He died in agony, and descended to hell to take back the keys to unlock eternal life for us (Revelation 1:18). Close by reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and praise God for choosing you, and making sense out of your nonsense. He is alive and HE IS WORTHY!

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