**A Terrible Day:**

**Reflection:**

*“Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away* (John 20:15b).”

What was Saturday like for the horrified, terrified disciples, friends, and followers of Jesus, after the death of Hope itself? Scripture doesn’t tell us, but it must have been awful: grief-stricken and horrified at what had happened to Jesus and terrified that a similar fate might be their own, and with nowhere to turn for comfort or reassurance or hope, or was there?

Jesus had mentioned on several occasions that He would be killed and then rise in three days, at the time it really upset His followers, and after His crucifixion, it seems they forgot in their grief and fear. The Old Testament hints at it too, but who could believe it before it happened? Even after seeing the empty tomb, in a rather humorous exchange, Mary still cannot believe, thinking Jesus is the gardener! But how much less dreadful would the hours between His death and resurrection have been had they remembered and believed?

We shouldn’t judge the first Christians too harshly, undoubtedly all of us would have responded in very similar fashion! But what of us today? Are we guilty of the same unbelief in our turn, we who have the New Testament, the Church, and two millennia of scholarship? Are you hiding in the upper room, doors locked and shutters down on your own particular ‘Holy Saturday?’ No matter what your current predicament or crisis, it is no surprise to God, and like those first disciples, rescue will come, perhaps not in the way or time we think it should, but He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, and we are told time and again to ‘fear not!’ Perhaps when life looks the darkest, it is the very eve of a world shaking miracle! But will you trust Him to bring you through it or hide under the table waiting for the Romans to burst in?

**Let Us Pray:**

Pray that we realize no matter what happens, He has already conquered evil and death! Pray that we boldly go forth, no matter what life throws at us, knowing whose we are. Pray that we remember He has already overcome the world, even if it seems like the world is winning at the moment. Pray that many hearts will be shaken out of their complacency, reminded of their own futility, and seek comfort in the Man of Sorrows, Who is acquainted with grief and has borne in His body the penalty for our sins, and that since He lives, so can we!

**Recommended Scripture**:

[Isaiah 53](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+53&version=ESV)

[John 20:1-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20&version=ESV)

[Hebrews](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4&version=ESV) 4

**Recommended Worship:**

[Man](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3SBVpLCnA0) of Sorrows

[How Deep the Father’s Love for Us](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD9-omLKwWI)

[King](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg) of Kings