

Easter 2020 - Sabbath

In our tears

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xOzcQ5Wxds>

There was a faint glow coming from the horizon. It was a little overcast, so the light was mercifully gentle. It felt like that kind of day. Peter groaned. He wasn't sure if he'd slept or not. He was hoping this was all a nightmare, maybe he would wake up and everything would be fine again, Jesus would be there having breakfast with them and telling stories. He always felt better when Jesus was teaching him, not like the teachers of the law who sometimes made him feel incompetent and unworthy. What he'd give for a story now. Then he realised what had woken him from the half slumbering misery he'd been in all night. The rooster crowed. All of the memories of his betrayal and watching Jesus be led away, watching him die horribly, being mocked by people Jesus had helped come flooding back. Was every morning for the rest of his life going to be a reminder of his betrayal? Every time he heard a rooster crow?

John stirred nearby. They were all huddled wordlessly in a little upper room. Most of them hadn't slept. They had each found a little place of their own to collapse in a heap, avoiding eye contact, trapped in their own personal darkness. Peter had been worrying they would reject him, that they'd be giving him death glares, but everyone was too lost in their own grief and confusion to worry about yet another Peter moment.

John 14 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home.^[a] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."

It had all come out of nowhere. One day life was wonderful, they were together, the future seemed hopeful, and now here they were. Feeling isolated and alone. Hiding in an upper room, afraid to leave the house for fear of what might happen. They didn't know how long it would be, or what comes after this. Would they be next? Would they die too? There hadn't really been time to prepare or think ahead. The best they could do right now was just figure out how to make it through today. And right now, that felt like an impossible task. There was no normal anymore, everything was turned upside down in a few short hours. This wasn't how it was supposed to go. They felt scared and abandoned and forsaken. It could never be the same, and it was hard to imagine there being a way forward from this. So they stayed. Isolated. Stressed. It felt like there couldn't possibly be a greater plan in this. They had been so sure, and now none of them really knew what to think. They were in a waiting time. No one knew what they were waiting for. Just waiting. That space in the middle between what was and finding a way forward. The stillness in the middle of the storm. Like the Israelites

getting their hopes up about being able to leave and Pharoah changing his mind and not letting them go. Yesterday we had God with us, and now there is only silence. Confusion.

What good could God possibly bring from this brokenness? How could letting his son be murdered be a good thing?

Blessings - Laura Story

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xRNrnh_SE

Lyrics: <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/laurastory/blessings.html>

There was some food left over on the table, but no one touched it. No one felt like eating. The Passover was supposed to celebrate God making them whole as a people again, and here they were more broken than ever. It was still set up for the Passover. None of them had known at the time it would be their last meal with him. But thinking back, maybe he knew. The towel Jesus used had dried, but everything else was just as he left it.

John 16: 32 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. **33** I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”