



ROLAN MONJE

RESURRECTION HOPE

A 3-DAY QUIET TIME SERIES

by Rolan Monje

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11

No one in history ever lived like Jesus.
Nothing gives hope like his life, death, and resurrection.

In this series, we will be exploring the biblical topic of hope as it relates to Jesus' resurrection. May God encourage your soul as you drink deeply from the wells of Scripture.

Day 1: AFFLICTED FOR US

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:3-5 ESV

Reading:

Psalm 22:1-24 and Matthew 27:45-50.

Reflection:

We are all familiar with the Crucifixion story, but sometimes we forget to reflect on how Jesus felt. Psalm 22 gives us a window into his heart. Our Lord quoted the first line of this psalm while on the cross (Matthew 27:46). He knew the psalms and had personalized them. Honest, surrendered, he gave a desperate cry for help as he faced death.

- When you feel oppressed or abandoned, how do you usually respond? What comes out of your prayers?
- How do you personally hold on to faith in spite of a grim outlook?
- How does it help to know that Jesus felt isolation and despair?

Note how Psalm 22, despite its gloomy vibe, looks to God in hope. David's attitude in this psalm allows us to refine and direct our thoughts when things are not happening the way we wish.

- God has saved in the past (v.4)
- God has watched over the psalmist as a child (vv.9-10)
- God is our strength (v.19)
- We can look forward to praising God (v.22)
- He is worthy of praise and honor (v.23)

Today, let us remember that our Lord's agonizing death was at once essential and purposeful. It was not suffering put to waste. Painful as Calvary was to God, it was laid out with divine intention—it was for you and me. Prophet Isaiah says it was so the Messiah could bear our grief and carry our sorrows. Apostle Paul says he “ “became sin” for us as he took on our failings. No one

brings meaning to suffering like Jesus. May our reflections bring fresh, reignited gratitude for what our Lord has done.

Prayer focus:

- To remember Christ in our pain
- To be filled with gratitude for his sacrifice

Day 2: HOPE AND NEWNESS

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

Psalm 16:9-10

Reading:

Psalm 16 and Acts 2:22-36.

Reflection:

Here is a psalm of confidence by David. Note the different ways he expresses hope and trust in God. (Each one is worth several prayer times!)

- he calls God “his refuge” (v.1)
- he declares to God, You are my Lord (v.2)
- he associates himself with the saints, God’s holy people (v.3)
- he stays away from idolatry (v.4)
- he accepts whatever God has given him (vv.5-6)
- he listens to God (v.7)
- he considers himself unshakable (v.8)

Good days and not-so-good days will visit us all—part of being human. Just like the psalmist, through life’s ebb and flow, we can

we can steadfastly hold on to assurance beyond ourselves. To be spiritually strong and agile, continue to make God your refuge, your confidence.

Interestingly, Psalm 16 carries a message beyond David's lifetime. Hundreds of years after its writing, this psalm was quoted by Apostle Peter in his sermon in Acts 2! Peter maintains that David foresaw the empty tomb, envisioning a resurrected Messiah. Psalm 16 is therefore a poetic picture of security in God, which is ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

Like us, Jesus faced trouble and temptations of many kinds. Like us, Jesus was tested, even to breaking point. He can relate to our pain and weakness. And when he had to give up his life at the Cross, our Lord held strong to the confidence described by David in this psalm. His source of positivity? Knowing that God would never let him down.

Prayer focus:

- To be forward-looking like David
- To be grateful and secure that God knows our future

Day 3: HE IS RISEN

Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

Acts 26:8

Reading:

Luke 24:1-24 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-28.

Reflection:

The resurrection mega-event lies at the heart of the Christian message. All four Gospels mention it. The New Testament insists on it as the factual basis for life eternal. The first day of the week, when Jesus rose from the dead, soon became a cardinal day of Christian worship (cf. Acts 20:7).

In his gospel, Luke makes sure his story is solid and convincing. Take note of:

- The discovery of the tomb opened
- The fact that the body is gone
- Women being first to know, and others not believing them right away
- The discovery repeated and discussed
- The story confirmed by others who went to the tomb

We may take it for granted that the resurrection indeed happened, but there is much more to contemplate. The resurrection affirms the power of Christ's sacrifice and our justification. It reminds us that Jesus is united with us and that we share in his victory. Think about it. The thought that their unorthodox Rabbi is risen is the thought that launched the church into action, and the world was never the same after that.

Today, Jesus meets you, as he met those women as they left the tomb. Although surrounded by uncertainty, before us stands the One who is certainly alive. He is risen! He is with you! Let us recognize and honor the Conqueror who conquered the grave. Together, united by the power of a love that is stronger than death, let us hold on to hope.

Prayer focus:

- To claim the victory in Jesus
- To believe in the which is unseen
- For zeal to tell others about our Savior