



Wednesday Prayer

Holy Week – Believing is an act of Love

“Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

John 13:33-34

Jesus’ words and actions in the days before he is to be crucified attempt to fill the disciples with the knowledge and faith to carry his mission forward. He displays the most humble love in the washing of his disciples feet, in their breaking bread together, and in continuing to share of what is to come. In their humanness however, they simply cannot believe it or accept it.

Often in Bible studies, we’re asked to think about where we are in the story. I find that I can easily relate to the disciples’ lack of belief or understanding of what is to come. And then taking that a step further, to love others – as Jesus has loved – that can be a stretch sometimes as Jesus’ love was truly for all. How can I show love for those outside of my daily life, those outside my circle, those who hurt others?

In the Gospel lesson for Easter Sunday, we hear how Peter and the other apostles had a hard time believing the women who shared that Jesus has risen.

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Luke 24:10-12

First Jesus was not believed, then the women who were retelling in real time what Jesus had already told, were not believed. Their words “seemed to them an idle tale”. It took Peter actually seeing for himself to truly believe. I can’t help but think of the times survivors have shared their stories with me and then followed with deep heartfelt thanks for believing them. They’ve shared that “You are the only person who’s ever believed me. Others think I’m crazy or making it up.” Believing is an act of love. And I find I can pray for those who hurt others. Prayer is an act of love.

As we enter this season of Easter, let us find ways to show love that is truly for all.

Jesus, humble king, may we love as you have shown us. May we believe as you have taught us. Abide in us as we go forth to proclaim your love to all. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

[Link to Cherish All Children Lenten Prayers to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation.](#)