

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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April 2017

Good morning! As I am writing this, it is Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 3:21am. This Sunday we celebrate Easter/Resurrection Day, the events of that historic day being well documented with many witnesses, some of whom were later put to death because of their testimony. They refused to keep quiet about the truth of Jesus Christ—His life, death, and resurrection. On the day of His death, according to the historical record, darkness fell upon the land during daylight hours, accompanied by an earthquake. Three men were executed by crucifixion, three crosses on a piece of ground called Golgotha, the Place of a Skull. The man on the left cross was a convicted criminal, the man on the right cross, also a convicted criminal. The man on the center cross a popular teacher, healer, and prophet named Jesus, a man who was much more than a man. Many witnessed the execution of these three on that dark day we call Good Friday. And on the third day He rose from the dead. Many saw with their own eyes the risen Jesus during the next 40 days, on one occasion over 500 people. His post-death live appearances were no secret in Judea.

Two writers, Matthew and John, documented what they had experienced firsthand as His disciples, eye witnesses to what Jesus did and said during His years of ministry. Another writer was a careful historian and also a doctor. Luke compiled his gospel account based on the testimony of eyewitnesses, in his own words, “having investigated everything carefully from the beginning to write an orderly account for you...” (Luke 1:3).

As a 9-1-1 Chaplain, I have watched on numerous occasions our Police Officers, Deputy Sheriffs, Detectives, and Deputy Medical Examiners do their careful investigations on death scenes. I am so thankful for our teams of first, second, and third responders, and to have the privilege and responsibility to serve alongside them here in Clark County. I have been learning and my eyes have witnessed much for a number of years now. My wonderful earthly father always told me to be a learner. “Learn till the day you die,” he would say. I am good with that.

Each year during the weeks leading up to Easter/Resurrection Day, I pray and ask our Heavenly Father that I would not go through this season without Him depositing something into my mind and heart—something that would help me to think more clearly with deeper understanding God’s love, His goodness, and His heart. You see, we have a Heavenly Father who loves us all so much, who loves to hear our voices, and who loves to give His children good gifts. He desires that we know how very much He loves each and every one of us. He has made a way for all of us to find a peace beyond our own understanding, to experience a joy in this life, and to receive the greatest gift of all—life after death, life everlasting found in the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. “Good Friday” is

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good because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, offering to us forgiveness and eternal life for those who place their trust in Him.

ESV **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God sees all and understands our strengths and weaknesses, yet He loves us unconditionally. He desires to generously give to us what we need the most, to all who ask. In my tired mind and my thankful heart, I believe this season and holiday to be the most important time of the year. Thank you for your support. Thank you especially for your prayers. Please pray for the safety of our first responders as they serve.

Chaplain Sam LaPore

Editing by Janet LaPore and Al Walter

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