

Easter 2018
April 1st, 2018
“No Longer Wandering...”

- Happy Easter everybody!
 - Easter is a day on the calendar that Centers us!
 - It's like the anchor of Spring!!!
 - The Wandering of Winter is over & the Newness of Spring is Ahead...

??? Have you ever found yourself Wandering?

- Like at Walmart??? - WALMART ILL.
 - Mini fishing pole, tire shine, wheat bread, & Milk Duds...

* Our World is in a State of “Wandering!”

- WANDERLUST ILL. (3 T-SHIRTS ON SCREEN)
 - “The irresistible, incurable desire to travel and wander.”

* Why? - B/c there is a Hopelessness that comes in the Waiting & that Hopelessness can cause us to Wander!

- (Segue:) In reading the Easter story, I couldn't help but think about the waiting between the Cross & the Resurrection...

- *“On Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, the Bible records that the world went into Waiting...”*

- The sky actually went dark from Noon to 3pm & the sun stopped shining!!!

v. 46 “Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.”

- And then... God seemingly went silent.
- And the world went into waiting...

- Man, How they must have wandered in their hearts & minds during those dark, lonely hours between the cross & the resurrection!

- How Hopeless it must have been!

- & Jesus' followers had different responses during the waiting...
 - Some of them probably got real quiet & secluded...
 - Some of them doubted everything...
 - Some of them probably got angry...
 - Some of them distracted themselves w/ busyness... that was the women...
 - They prepared spices...
 - Some of them actually denied Jesus & wandered away!!!
 - That was Peter... his moment actually happened the night before...

Luke 22:54 “Then seizing him, (Jesus) they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.

v. 56-58 “A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” “Man, I am not!” Peter replied.”

- Can’t you feel the pain & anxiety building in Peter’s heart?!?
- The waiting was killing him & his heart was beginning to Wander!!!

v. 59-60 “About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

v. 61-62 “The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

- Peter wandered for three days... in his Heart & in his Mind...
- He wandered in Hopelessness...

MIP: ? Have you ever Wandered in the Waiting?!?

*** *“Have you ever wandered in the waiting between...”***

- *The Hope of a family & actually getting pregnant.*

- *The Hope of a spouse & the moment when the man of your dreams gets down on 1 knee.*

- *The Hope of a better future & the “Sold” sign in the front yard.*

- *The Hope of good health & ringing of the bell after radiation or chemo.*

- *The Hope of a restored relationship & the phone call that finally comes.*

- *The Hope of financial peace & the day the bill collectors stop calling.*

- *The Hope of a great marriage & the end of the long, lonely nights of not talking.*

- *The Hope of Peace on the inside & the moment when the grace of God consumes us & finally takes away all our guilt & shame.*

- *See, the Hopelessness of the Waiting can cause us to Wander!*

- *Thankfully, During our Wandering & Waiting, Jesus is still Working!!!*

“Fast forward to Sunday morning... that first Easter morning!!!”

v. 24:1-3 *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”*

- *All of a sudden, some angels show up & remind them what Jesus said...*

v. 5b-8 *“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ Then they remembered his words.”*

- With that, the women go running to where the disciples had been holed up waiting & wondering!!!
 - When they finally open the door for them, they tell everyone there that He's alive!
 - He's not there! - He is risen!
 - & then look what happens next...

v. 24:12 "Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb."

- Why? Where he had been feeling Hopelessness in his waiting & wandering, suddenly he had Hope!!!

- * That's the power of the Resurrection!!! * That's the power of Hope!!!
 - The Hope Peter felt on that first resurrection is the same Hope we can experience today as well...

The Resurrection gives us Hope & that...

Hope Produces in us 3 things:

1. Safety.

A. Most people don't feel like there's anywhere Safe in the world today.

- That's why they Wander!
- But Jesus is our Safe Place!

B. MIP: Maybe you feel like your world is Unsafe!

- B/c Jesus rose from the dead, you have a Safe Place in Him!!!

C. SONG: I love the song that says, "We are wrapped in Resurrection!"

2. A Sanctuary.

A. Definition: "A Refuge, Harbor, Port in a Storm, Shelter, Hideaway, Hideout..."

- 4TH OF JULY GETTING CAUGHT IN THE STORM

- My brother-in-law & I were never so happy to make it into the Safe Harbor of South Seas Resort!

B. That's what Jesus is & can be for us.

C. MIP: Whatever you're facing... Through His Resurrection, He has become our Sanctuary!!!

3. Strength.

A. The waiting & the wandering have a way of "shattering our lives" into a million pieces.

B. The Resurrection can put all those broken pieces back together again.

C. KINTSUGI – "GOLDEN REPAIR" ILL.

- The Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold... it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

D. The same is true with us!!!

- We've been wandering, but that's why Jesus came.

E. Wandering produces cracks... but the Resurrection fills those cracks with Gold!!!

- Only God can take our broken lives & make them a piece of beautiful art!

Challenge:

- No More Wandering in the Waiting...

- Jesus' arms are open wide for us to run into and be restored!!!

- SALVATION / REDEDICATION