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DON'T WEEP!

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." (John 20:15)

Christians are to be a joyful people

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

The problem with having joy is that we live in a real world.

There are times when we feel much like Mary Magdalene did here.

Her Lord and Master had been terribly mistreated and murdered.

Now, she has come to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, and the body is missing.

She did not realize that Jesus had risen, so out of sorrow and frustration, she stood outside the tomb weeping

but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb (John 20:11)

I am not deceived. Not everyone who comes church is ecstatic with joy. In fact, some of you probably feel like weeping.

And even though some of you may not feel like weeping, your joy is hampered by events that have happened to you and your friends.

Life is filled with sorrow.

There is the sorrow caused by hurt feelings.

There is the sorrow caused from being mistreated.

There is the sorrow caused by seeing others hurt and mistreated.

There is the sorrow caused by family difficulties.

There is the sorrow caused by strained relationships and lack of money and/or jobs.

There is the sorrow caused by sickness and death.

These sorrows create a barrier that makes it difficult for us to be joyful all the time.

As Mary stood there weeping, she was asked by angels why she was weeping.

but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" (John 20:11-13)

Mary's answer to their inquiry was the reason at the moment that she was weeping.

However, it was probably the culmination of sorrows over the previous days that also added to the weeping.

May I ask you a question, one to be answered silently?

Why are you weeping right now?

You may not be literally weeping, but what is making you sad?

In John 20:15, Jesus appears to Mary, although Mary at first does not realize it.

And Jesus asked her "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Notice that Jesus cares when he asks that question.

However, He is also telling Mary that there is no longer a need to weep.

My friend, Jesus cares about what is causing you sorrow and He wants you to tell him when you have sorrows. He cares enough to listen.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

It is interesting that Jesus turned her weeping into joy with just one word. He spoke her name.

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic,
"Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). (John 20:16)

Jesus basically communicated to Mary that she should not weep because Jesus, her master, was very much alive.

The Lord Jesus turned her sorrow into joy.

And today, the Lord Jesus wants your sorrow to be turned to joy.

It does not mean that your problems will go away.

But it does mean that we can rejoice in spite of our circumstances.

So today, I say to you,

if you are a born-again Christian,

if you have trusted Christ as your Savior

"DON'T WEEP!!"

DON'T WEEP! HE IS RISEN!

Death is the world's greatest preacher for, unless a person is "raptured", it will be faced by everyone.

Yet the power of death is surpassed by the love of Christ – for it was the power of Christ's love that took Him to the cross to conquer death.

Death had power over us all. A power to fear & dread.

Now Christ's life has the ultimate power – the power of love, trust, and permanence.

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Cor.15:54)

Prophecies About Christ's Resurrection – FULFILLED!!

he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. (Isa.25:8)

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? "I will have no compassion, (Hos. 13:14)

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psa.16:11)

- The announcements that the angels gave the women who came to the tomb, was that Jesus has risen.
- The message Jesus gave the two disciples on the way to Emmaus was that He has risen!
- The message to the apostles and to Thomas was that He has risen!
- And Jesus appearing to Mary was declaring that He had risen!

And the message that God gives to us is that Jesus has risen!

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Why is the resurrection a source of joy?

The resurrection proves that God has accepted Christ's sacrifice for sin.

The resurrection promises life after death.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

The resurrection shows us that Jesus is alive so he can indeed intercede in our behalf.

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)

DON'T WEEP! WE ARE REDEEMED!

When you were born, you were born into captivity.

You were born into the bondage of sin.

You are a sinner by nature.

You have willfully disobeyed God.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

In order for you to be set free from your bondage, someone had to pay for your sins and set you free.

This is what redemption is, the paying of a ransom to someone free.

This is what Christ has done for all of those that name Him as Savior.

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

It was not a ransom of silver and gold that was paid for your sin. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless son of God that was shed.

As John the Baptist said so long ago,

...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5:9)

DON'T WEEP! WE ARE REGENERATED!

To be regenerated is to be born again.

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

(John 3:3)

If you have truly trusted the Lord Jesus as Savior, you have been literally born into the family of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is regeneration.

GENERATION: CREATION

DEGENERATION: THE FALL

REGENERATION: BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. (John 3:5-8)

Why should you not weep because you have been regenerated?

You should not weep because you have new life in Christ now!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Although you have problems, you have new life to see you through!

Although you still the devil is now your enemy you have new life to see you through.

Although there are times of depression and tears, you have the new life, the regenerated life to see you through!

You now have the ability to handle your difficulties through Christ!

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)

DON'T WEEP! HE IS RESIDING!

If you have been regenerated the Spirit of God and of Christ dwells in you.

He is living inside. It is the Spirit of Christ who is present to comfort and help you.

DON'T WEEP! HE IS RESIDING!

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

How should the residence of Christ through the Holy Spirit encourage you?

It is the Holy Spirit that brings comfort to you when you hurt.

It is the Holy Spirit that tells you that you are a child of God.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)

It is the Holy Spirit that empowers us to witness.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

It is the Holy Spirit that produces fruit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

It is the Holy Spirit that helps us to pray.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (Romans 8:26-27)

So, if Jesus is residing inside of us, what should our response be to Him?

Our response should be to abide in Him, to remain close to have fellowship with Him.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:4-7)

DON'T WEEP! HE WILL RETURN!

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:1-3)

Jesus is coming back for us. He might come and receive you personally by way of death.

Or you may be here when he comes for those who believe in Him.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

Christian, your life is temporary in this world.

Christian, at any moment you could be taken by death.

Christian, at any moment you could be taken home with all other Christians.

Christian, we have a blessed hope, and should act that way.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:11-13)

DON'T WEEP! HE REIGNS!

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

My friend, Jesus is God.

My friend, OUR GOD REIGNS!

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. (Revelation 22:13)

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace, who brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7)

My friend, Jesus is very much alive and He reigns.

No matter what goes wrong, He reigns.

Not matter what difficulty you face, He reigns.

There is nothing that you face today that is out of the control of God. LET'S PRAY:

YOUR GOD REIGNS – believe it!

YOUR GOD REIGNS – rest in Him!

YOUR GOD REIGNS – rejoice!

YOUR GOD REIGNS – relax!