

The Sacred Tension (1 Peter 1:3-6)

Sometimes the most victorious things happen in the dark. Jesus changes everything!

1 Peter 1:3-6 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,”

1. Peter expresses a “sacred tension.”
 - A. God’s mercy has provided a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus.
 - B. He has brought an eternal inheritance that is being kept for us (3-4).
 1. It is in this living hope that we rejoice.
 2. And it is in this very hope that Easter Sunday is such a meaningful celebration.

C. But the day of redemption Peter writes about has not yet come.

1. So Peter reminds us to grieve (6).
 2. Joy and grief often get pitted against each other, especially in the church. Joy and grief should be seen as “holy companions” in this fallen world.
2. The days that follow resurrection.
 - A. Monday, Tuesday and each day after, remind us that resurrection is not an escape from the world’s pain but a transformation of how we endure it.
 1. Jesus rose, but the wounds remained in his hands.
 2. The truth is we carry wounds, griefs, losses, pains, betrayals unanswered questions.
 3. Easter doesn’t erase them; it reinterprets them through the lens of hope. (1 Thess. 4:13)
 4. Easter doesn’t solve them but provides a foundation to embrace the sorrow we rightly experience because of them.

B. On Easter Sunday we stand in the light of the empty tomb.

1. Just like Mary and the other women. Just like the disciples who ran to the tomb to find it empty, we celebrate because we believe he has been raised.

2. But on Monday and Tuesday and every other day that follows, we often find ourselves back in the shadows.

3. The cancer is still there. The financial struggle is not resolved. The depression returns. The relationship may still be broken.

4. We might ask, "If Christ is risen, why does the world still feel so broken?"

Verse 6 "even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,"

5. This is not a lack of faith; it's the honest lament of believers who are learning to walk in the sacred tension of the now and the not yet.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 "But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not

crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

C. This tension should cause us to draw close to Jesus.

1. It should remind us that no matter how turbulent the waves; no matter how loud the roar of thunder; no matter how uncertain the future, he hears the cries of his children.

Romans 14:8-9 "for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."

2. He is Lord of the living and the dead. And he is risen.

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