



Daily Reflections

April 27, 2019

Scripture

Mark 16: 5-16

When Jesus had risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told his companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After this he appeared in another form to two of them walking along on their way to the country. They returned and told the others; but they did not believe them either. But later, as the Eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

Our Scripture Reflection

During April of 2019 it seems easy to say, "I believe Jesus was raised from the dead." But are we truly aware of the magnitude of what we are saying? Do we really believe that a horribly beaten and bruised human body could be

raised up from the dead? We've never physically seen such a thing. We have gone to funeral homes and witnessed dead bodies lying in a coffin...but raised up?? That was the struggle of those early disciples. Most of them had been taught since childhood that the only hope of resurrection, IF it was to happen would be at the end of time. And then Jesus appeared....

Food for your Journey

The starting point for any sensible thinking about God is to realize that the human mind just isn't big enough to cope with such a concept. It's like trying to pack the Alps into a suitcase or the Niagara Falls into a coffee mug. How can the little word "God" do justice to the magnificent reality to which it points? We can no more reduce God to words than we can take hold of the smoke of a candle that's just been blown out, or capture sunbeams in a glass jar.

To use a more formal way of speaking, we can't comprehend God -- human reason is simply not capable of grasping God in full. It may try to prove and to define things about God, only to discover that what it has defined and proved bears little relationship to the "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." So while it's great fun to explore human ideas about God, in the end we need to pay God the ultimate compliment. You tell us who you are! You tell us what you're like! You approach us.

--Alister McGrath, *The Living God: A Guide for Study and Devotion* (Westminster John Knox, 2014), 2-3.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, May I come to know at the very depths of my heart and mind that with You ALL things are possible. You are God of what we believe to be impossible. Increase my faith. Amen