

April 22

Communion is...

Communion is desire. I have a deep desire for food so I don't go without it. I also have a deep desire to be with Jesus, so I draw near to Him in communion.

Read Matthew 27:55-56, 61 and 28:1-10

I don't know if has gotten your attention or not, but the continued presence of women in this story has made an impression on me.

In Matthew 27:55-56 we find the women looking on from a distance. And then in verse 61 we see Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were present when Jesus' body was being prepared for burial. Once we head into chapter 28, there they are again, going to visit the grave and finding Jesus risen... in fact these women are the first to interact with the resurrected Jesus!

I know that there are lots of opinions and perspectives regarding the role of women in the church today. I won't get into all of that here, and as you experience communion with Jesus today, I encourage you not to get distracted by your opinions on that subject either.

But we can agree that every word in Scripture is purposeful, not just there for filler or to round out the story. So, the Holy Spirit must have wanted us to be aware of the continued presence of these women during all of the moments of the Gospel story.

There may be lots of reasons why and please feel free to ponder that thought... but for this moment, can we just be impressed and inspired by the persistence of these women to be present with Jesus!

When the other followers had run in fear, their tender hearts kept them near. We know that Jesus had changed Mary Magdalene's life from being possessed by 7 demons to freedom. I imagine she couldn't bear the thought of life without Him. I wish we knew the stories of the others. We don't, but we do see that they too had the desire to be near Him. And that persistent desire granted them the privilege to be the first to see Jesus when He rose from the grave!

Today as we come to the communion table, may we have that kind of persistence to be near to Jesus in every moment too. No matter what, may we show up. Not out of duty, but out of desire to be near the One who has changed our lives. And as we persist in our desire to be near Him, may He privilege us with revelation of all of Who He is!

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, I come to the communion table because I have such a desire to be with You. No matter where You are, that is where I want to be...



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