

April 22, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-35

Do you believe that Easter makes a difference? Really?

Sometimes it seems that Holy Week and Easter, like Christmas, are nothing more than a nice diversion, a church-focused week that temporarily distracts us from our everyday lives. For a few days we focus intently on God and on the final events in Jesus' life. We are moved by Jesus' passion and are thrilled by his resurrection. We willingly attend extra worship services and discover once again the source of our salvation and our Christian identity.

But then it's back to the real world. The joy of Easter fades like the blooms on our Easter lilies as challenges, and problems, and the long list of work that needs to be done resume their prominent place in life. Holy Week was moving and Easter was nice, but life after Easter is no different than life before.

Should it be? Shouldn't Easter make a difference? Shouldn't Easter put life in proper perspective? Shouldn't the Good News that Jesus is alive set us free to live faithfully and hopefully?

We often think that life is like a gymnast's balance beam, a four-inch wide plank suspended in mid-air that requires our intense concentration to stay in balance. The fear of falling paralyzes us and saps our joy. But on Easter morning, when Jesus' tomb is discovered to be empty, and Easter evening when we meet Jesus at the table, we discover that life's balance beam is only four inches off the ground. Easter takes away fear of falling and failing. Easter takes away the pressure of having to be perfect. Easter frees us to step out in faith. Easter changes everything.

Find time today to reflect on the Good News of Easter. Ask God to help you realize that Easter really does make a difference.