

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Here we are... Holy Week. We worshiped on Palm Sunday, welcoming the King of Kings with palm branches and calls of 'Hosanna.' But we all knew what was ahead for us... and for Jesus.

It's very exciting to welcome someone. Recently, we had two separate visits from family. We could hardly wait for them to arrive! But before we knew it, they were gone. The house seemed very empty without the sounds of young people laughing, some dog barking and the conversations we enjoyed so much.

We knew that day would come, and they would be gone. It's an empty feeling, isn't it? But we also know that there are good times ahead and we will be together again very soon.

The followers of Jesus didn't quite understand that concept. They welcomed Him with shouts and cheers. But before they knew it: He was gone. He was to die. They thought, He was gone forever.

John 16:16 puts it this way: "***In a little while, you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.***" The people didn't know quite what to make of those words. When they saw Jesus hanging on the cross, they thought... "Well. That's it." He is gone forever.

That's the beauty of the Easter message. He is not gone. He is with us today as we walk through this week and He is with us as we journey through all our sorrows, our disappointments, and our sadness. "A little while" can be just a fleeting moment or it can be longer than we would like it to be. But at the end of 'a little while' comes a grand reunion with laughter, cheers, and joy.

Take time these days of Holy Week to reflect on that thought. And please keep on washing your hands, fold them and bow your head. This long week ends with an empty tomb and the songs of Alleluia! He is Risen! (It's just 'a little while.')

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, you reminded us that time is not of the essence where you are. You have not left us, and you never will. You walk beside us each and every day. Give us courage to just keep putting one foot in front of the other as we keep on. We are broken-hearted at your suffering, but we know that it was... 'just a little while.' Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen."