

## Meditation: POWER

### *Reflections on the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

**Sunday, March 28, 2010.** Today is Palm Sunday, and, as usual, my mind goes back to the 1990s when I was pastor of the Community Church of Yorktown in New York. I used to love preparing the 3 holy week services our church offered. I thought of them like this:

Palm Sunday – Deciding to face what has to be faced  
Good Friday – Enduring what has to be endured  
Easter – Resurrection! Pure joy! Forever!

During the night I began to have new thoughts of the POWER OF GOD that was shown at the death and resurrection of Jesus. It makes the power that people exerted over Jesus at his trial and crucifixion seem like NOTHING in comparison! Make no mistake about this: Jesus CHOSE to face what he had to face and to endure what he had to endure. How was he able to do this? By focusing on the joy of the resurrection that would come after his work on earth was over. Certainly there was power behind the decisions Jesus made, but my mind explored two other thoughts about God's power.

One of them came from Isaiah 53:6 – *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."* I began to wonder whether sin could be assigned a weight. How heavy would you say was Adam and Eve's sin of eating fruit from a forbidden tree? Was it more or less than Cain's sin of killing his brother and then lying about it? Adam and Eve's sin was heavy enough to break them off from their relationship with God; it was no lightweight matter! What would your sins weigh? What about mine? Can you imagine the total weight of all the sins of all the people who have ever lived or who ever will live? That's the load that God laid on Jesus, ounce by ounce, pound by pound. Jesus felt the crushing load so much that he cried out in agony, *"My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?"*

After picturing Jesus under that heavy, heavy pile of sin, and feeling the pain of a broken relationship with God, it is not hard to imagine that Jesus died. What is astounding is that he didn't remain dead! In my mind, I see Jesus reviving, pushing aside and disposing of the load, and exiting the sealed tomb EASILY! What POWER the resurrection displayed! Let's bask in that power! He paid the penalty for our sin; NOTHING is impossible with God!

My other train of thought had to do with stories told in Matthew 27 and 28. Here is the first passage: *"When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people."* What a display of POWER! And it all happened the moment Jesus died, more proof that he was no ordinary man. God tore the curtain in the temple apart from the top, showing that the new covenant had now replaced the old. The Bible tells us in many places that creation speaks of the glory of God. In this case, the earth shook, rocks split, and dead people came back to life; it was awesome!

Now the second passage. On the day of resurrection, one of God's invisible created beings took on form and became involved, with startling, POWERFUL results. Listen: *"After the Sabbath, at*

*dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”* Jesus was already gone, of course. He certainly didn’t need an angel to help him exit the tomb! Rather, the angel came to let the women look inside. Suddenly I find so funny the thought that the angel rolled back the stone AND SAT ON IT! So much for the best efforts of humans to keep God contained! The resurrection proves that it can’t be done.

Our God is ALMIGHTY! Praise his name.

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An entry from Verna’s journal, [“A Penny For Your Thoughts – #18”](#)

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