



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 19, 2022

The Lord be with you.

It was sometime between midnight in the morning of December 4, 1875, that the German steamship Doecan ran aground off the English coast, and the steamship and medial began taking on water and 78 lives were lost. Among them, five Franciscan nuns who had been forced out of Germany. Now, in wake of that tragedy, English poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote a poem in which he celebrated the lives of those five Franciscans that he celebrated Christ's victory over death. Now, there was a line in the poem that is... Well, it's actually a prayer in which he asked, Let Christ Easter in us, and today, as you and I, as we face pandemic, war, upheaval, tragedy, so we would pray, let Christ Easter in us. That is let the meaning of Easter. The good news of Easter, let it fill us and permeate every fiber of our being.

Now, as we pray that prayer that Christ Easter in us, as we pray that I'm thinking of the prayer that the apostle Paul prays in Ephesians Chapter 1 verse 17, as Paul prayed that every believer know, quote, "the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe." And then Paul goes on to say that, that power is the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Now, just a few days ago on Good Friday, we remembered Jesus death on the cross, we remembered his crushed, cold, lifeless form that was laid at a grave, and then on Easter, the Holy Spirit breathes life into a lifeless Jesus. The Holy Spirit breathe not just life, but He breathed God to life. Divine life, eternal life. The Holy Spirit breathes life into Jesus, so that death could not hold Jesus, and Jesus was raised from the dead. And the Apostle Paul says that that power that did that, that... That is the immeasurable greatness of God's power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Now, one of the significant things about God's power that's in you and me... It's what God tells Paul in 2 Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 9, as he says, God's power is made perfect in weakness. So that leads Paul to then say, so I will boast more gladly of my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Perhaps I catch you today not feeling at all powerful, perhaps you're feeling just the opposite of powerful as maybe you're feeling fragile, run down, powerless, and that puts you at just the right place for God's power to go to work.

That power that raised Jesus from the dead, that power is at work in you. As Scripture says that God's power is made perfect in weakness. Now, you may not feel like Batman today, I mean, you may not feel like any super hero today. And that's okay. Because it's not about you, it's not about me, it's about God. And God's power that is at work within us. And so we would pray. Let Christ Easter in us.

I like it that throughout much of Europe in the middle ages of people reckoned Easter as New



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Year's Day, and people often spoke of Easter as the beginning of a new year. As they sought to live in the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe. And so we could begin today in a sense, a new year, make at the beginning of the new way of living. Living in the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him the name that is above every name.

I wanna close out today with the end of a prayer that Paul prays in Ephesians Chapter 3 verse 20, "Now to Him, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly, far more than all we can ask or imagine. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Let Christ Easter in us.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler.

Thank you for listening. Until next time.