

Good morning,

The other day a friend was telling me of a recent death in the family and how people can get “*ambushed by grief.*”

It happens.



It has happened to me and I think it has happened to you. It happened to the followers of Christ after that dark Friday and was still happening when Monday arrived. Memories of walking with Jesus, listening to him, and watching him were flooding them. **John 21:25** reminds us that many things were not recorded in the gospel stories, ***"But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."***

We don't hear see the times he gave a hug; or patted someone on the back; or suddenly burst out laughing. We don't have the accounts of campfire talks; him joking around; times when they did group singing (*I wonder what part Jesus sang in harmony*); or the conversations that went on to pass the time as they walked back and forth across the country.

Some of the followers were ambushed by grief at the death of Lazarus, but in the midst of their weeping and his own, Jesus reversed that event. They didn't understand but could never forget it. Probably the most powerful memories that rolled down their cheeks came from watching him on that Friday only a few days earlier. That ambush was a rout. There was devastation, the sun was blocked out of their lives, and they could hardly function. Is it any surprise then that the women were shocked at the message that Jesus was alive on Easter Monday? Is it any surprise that the men ridiculed them, and that Peter's world started to tilt?

Grief happens because of love. It takes as long as it takes to process. Memories sneak out of our eyes and roll down our cheeks. But the love of God in Christ continues. Life comes back. The ambush breaks our hearts, but does not win. That is Easter.

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Coming up at Hope:

Apr 25 @ 8:30 am *Men's Breakfast* meeting

Apr 25 @ 9:00 am - noon *Hope Quilters*

Apr 25 @ 10:30 am *Men's Chorus* practice

Apr 27 @ 10:00 am *Sunday Worship Service*

May 1 @ 10:00 am *Hymn Sing on Zoom*

May 3 @ 5:00 pm *Pastor Terry's Retirement Pot Luck Party* at Hope

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your email on Saturday morning.

Christ is risen!

Pastor Terry