

God's Promise Fulfilled

Matthew 28:5-6

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"But you said!" Caleb's frowny face showed his clear disappointment. For the fourth day in a row, dad had promised a trip to McDonald's and the play place, but for the fourth day in a row Caleb was empty handed on nuggets and fries.

"But you said!" The students were in angry shock that they now had a homework assignment over the weekend, even though the teacher had promised none.

"But you said!" The wife was in disbelief that her husband did not follow through with changing his patterns of bad behavior.

How many times have you been let down by someone else? How many times have you failed to keep your own word? Broken promises hurt. They cause of a lack of trust. They bring disappointment, frustration, and sometimes a world of sadness. You might even wonder at times, "Can I trust anyone anymore?"

That first Easter morning, there were many who had similar feelings. They were disappointed, frustrated, and sad because their friend and teacher, Jesus, was crucified and died. Now what were they going to do? Wasn't he supposed to be their Savior?

But when the women went to the tomb early that Easter morning, they saw the most incredible sight. The tomb was empty! That's when the angel told them not to be afraid and announced the good news, "He is not here; he is risen, just as he said." That's right—just as he said. Jesus had told his disciples many times that he must suffer and die and then rise again. He had told people that just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days, so he would rise after three days (see previous devotion).

Even more than that, God had been promising for thousands of years that he would send a Savior to crush Satan's head and save sinners by his death and resurrection. That morning, Jesus proved that God had kept every promise of victory for us!

As sinful people, it is sometimes difficult to trust others. Sadly, sometimes we break our promises. But Jesus can always be trusted. He has kept and fulfilled every promise of God. He

came. He lived. He died. He rose again. And because he has kept every promise ever, we can know with absolute confidence that one day he will take us to be with him in heaven forever. This too he will most certainly do—just as he said.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for Younger Children

- How do you feel when someone breaks a promise to you? Why?
- If we can always trust God's promises and words, how should we treat and use the Bible in our lives?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- Why do you think the women were so afraid at first when they came to the tomb and found it empty?
- Why was it important for Jesus to teach about his suffering, death, and resurrection before he actually did those things?

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Explain what would have happened if Jesus lived and died for us but did not rise from the dead.
- Identify other promises that God has made to us in his Word that we can always trust with absolute confidence.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, because you rose from dead you proved that we can always trust your promises. Take away all our fears and give us confidence in what you say! Amen.

Hymn: CW #152 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!

5. He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.