

# Lent devotions

## READ:

Mark 15:33-47 (click to open link)

## REFLECT:

As Jesus took his last breath, those gathered around him began to disperse and a feeling of hopelessness took over. Even the centurion guard, who proclaimed, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" proclaimed it in the past tense. For while this pagan had come to the understanding of the horrible thing that just happened, his statement – "this man WAS the Son of God!" reflects that while he now believes, there is nothing left. Nothing more to come.

Even the way Jesus' followers scattered reflect the hopelessness of that moment. They scattered out of fear, out of lack of faith that something more was on the horizon. The women now stood before Jesus in disbelief. The same women who loved Jesus wept, mourned and proceeded to tend to His body. A task only to be done because that was all that was left to do. It was over. This was it.

Many of us are much like those who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion. We believe that God is with us and that he is working toward something new, something wonderful. That is, until it we come to a crisis in our own lives. At that exact moment, we lose hope. We lose faith that God actually will act. We flee out of hopelessness. While our love for Him remains, hope and faith are...gone. Our faith is strong as long as everything is moving along nicely, but when we hit a roadblock, we still love, but we lose our faith.

Isn't it funny that we, the very people who call ourselves Christ-followers. The very people who celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday, isn't it funny that, while we whole-heartedly believe that Christ defeated death, we lose hope that He is with us in our pain? We lose hope that He will resurrect us from...Our pain. Our struggles. Our addictions. Our hardships. All of it.

As we near Easter Sunday, let us make a promise. A promise to ourselves, but, more importantly, a promise to our Father. Let us hold tight to hope, faith and love. Let us remember that the one who was resurrected is the one who will resurrect us. We just need to hold onto hope.

## RESPOND:

- Re-read today's passage. Before you do, take a moment to pause and pray. As you pray, ask that God would further open your heart and mind to fully understand the truth of how Jesus' sacrifice pertains to you.
- How can Jesus' death be a reminder to you to hold onto hope?
- How can you remember to hold onto that hope when times get tough? Instead of "scattering" like Jesus' friends, how can you draw near to Him?