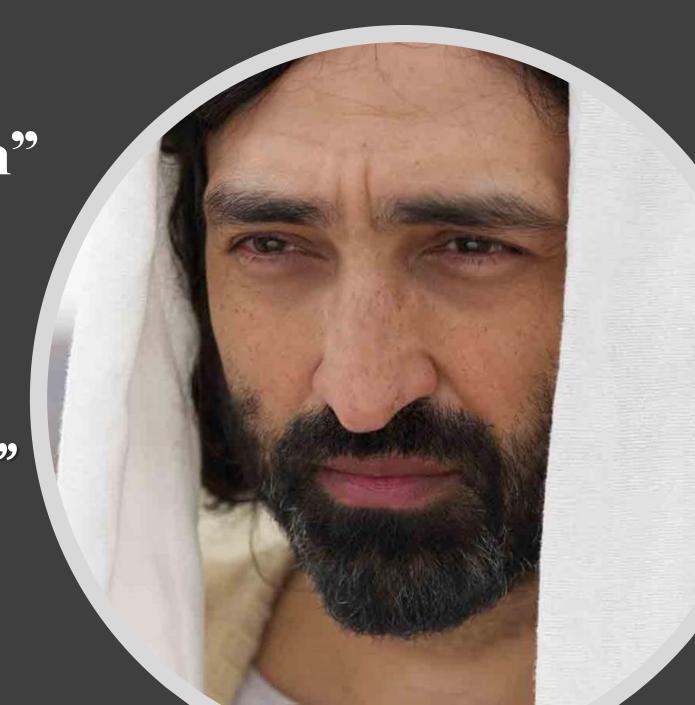
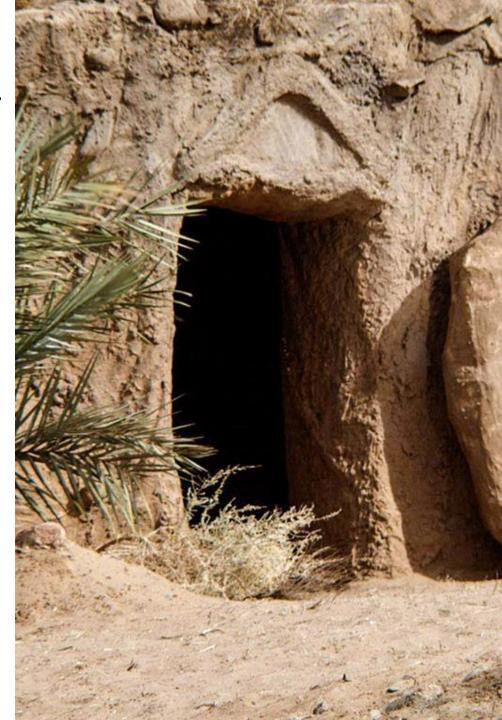
Easter Sunday
"The Lord is Risen"

John 20:11-18

"I have seen the Lord"



¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.



15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher).

Sometimes we believe because

we are afraid not to believe.

we have always been told.

we need this to hang onto.

we believe it's right.

"we have seen the Lord in our own life."



¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples,

"I've seen the Lord."

Then she told them what he said to her.

Today:

We see the Lord in nature.

We see the Lord in others lives an stories.

We see the Lord in our sin & brokenness.

We see the Lord in our acts of Worship.

We see the Lord in others.





- My mind is closed to the thoughts of others.
- My mind is made up.
- My ego has little need for growth.
- My heart is fearful of others.
- My life is set, mostly in stone.
- My ego needs to be right.

When we can't seem to see the <u>Risen Lord</u>, we may be confusing what we believe with what we experience.

What shows the Lord to others through me.

- My empathy and Compassion
- My openness to their thoughts and stories
- My willingness to learn from others.
- My realization that I could be wrong.
- My humble awareness of my own faults.

When <u>Risen Lord</u> shines through Empathy, Compassion, Openness, & Humility, good beliefs will follow.

The world searches for a compassionate God. The world searches for an honest believer.

If you haven't questioned your faith, you may not be thinking enough.

If you haven't deeply wondered "Why", you may not see how hard life can be.

If you think the only learning that you need is to support what you believe,

You may not be learning.

When we have seen the **Risen Lord**, we are safe to ask questions, to wonder, to fail, to be wrong, to be human.



Truth is always for the sake of Love,

not to create a statement of belief.

Truth is connecting humans to God, not creating a system to separate from God.

Truth has its roots in Faith, Hope, & Love. But the greatest is Love

Truth is the Risen Lord living in & through us.

When we see the <u>Risen Lord</u> our "truth" is that we are loved and accepted.
This "truth" then desires to connect to everyone.