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Week 9- Joy is Coming Soon

Opening Prayer

Opening Review:

1. Last week we discussed the corrosive nature of sin. What did we learn from passages such as: Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, and Romans 6:23?

2. We also touched upon the ways in which different world religions view death. What sets the Christian faith apart from ALL others?

3. Paul had a lot to say (through the working of the Holy Spirit) in 1 Corinthians 15 (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-26, 42-44, 50-58) about the Resurrection of the Dead. What do you recall?

Opening Discussion:

4. A great deal of interest has been poured into reality TV shows, especially those that highlight survival scenarios. What items do survivalists need for their (un)expected situations?

5. For the person who is waiting through the long hours of the night, what does it mean to see that first ray of sunlight?

Video 9

Discussion Questions

6. In our video, Max referenced **Psalm 30:5**. What realities are highlighted therein? And what is the promise highlighted for us?

7. **John 20:1-18** highlights for us an account of when rays of hope infiltrated what seemed like a dark and hopeless situation. As you read this passage, consider:

    a. How does our scene open? What just happened not long prior?

    b. Who do we meet in these early verses?

    c. What emotions accompanied this situation? Do you resonate with any of them at this moment?

    d. Two left the scene and one stayed behind. Why do you suppose Mary stayed behind as Peter and John left the tomb?

    e. What surprise did Mary receive? And what do you make of the fact that Mary did not recognize Jesus at first?

    f. As the living hope of Jesus' resurrection touched Mary at the deepest points of her being what did she do next?

    g. How does Mary's reaction serve as an example of how The Church today now seeks to live within the Reality of the Resurrection?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we know what it is like to journey through the long and dark hours of the night. By Your grace we also know the joy that meets us in the morning because You are present. Today, we ask You to overcome the dark and heavy places of our lives with Your Gospel Light and Hope. May we live with the same enthusiasm of that first Easter morning knowing Our Redeemer Lives! In Jesus' Name, Amen.