

Hope in the Hardest of Times Matthew 28:1-10

12 April 2020

1. Fear (false evidence appearing _____)
2. In the darkest of the times - _____
3. In the darkest of times Jesus walked through a

4. So what would Jesus say to us during this time?
 - a. I will strengthen you and help you
 - b. I will watch over you
5. Despair (def. The complete loss or absence of _____)
6. In the eyes of these disciples there was no hope that Jesus was
their _____
7. In the midst of our despair what would Jesus say to us? I do not
always do the things you would expect but –

8. In the midst of our darkest times Jesus visits us with words of

9. What would Jesus say to us in our darkest of times?

a. I _____ you

b. I _____ you

c. I will _____ you

d. I will give you _____

e. I will _____ you

f. I keep _____

g. Put _____

h. Because I live you can _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What is most difficult for you during the current situation of Covid-19?
2. The Easter account includes many times when Jesus presented himself or left signs for his followers (empty tomb, angels, entered through locked door, walked with disciples, etc.). In what ways is he leaving signs of himself in your present difficult times?
3. Jesus' followers were expected to make a faith-filled response each time Jesus presented himself or left signs for his followers. What faith-filled response can you make to what Jesus is showing you about the current situation?
4. Jesus keeps his promises. Give prayerful thought to each of these verses. Which ones minister to you in a special way? Are there other verses that minister hope to you during hard times?
 - a. Psalm 42:5 - Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him...
 - b. Isaiah 40:31 - but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
 - c. Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
 - d. Hebrews 6:19 - We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
 - e. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
5. Spend some time in prayer, alone or with a partner, thanking God for the words of assurance he has for you.
 - a. I love you
 - b. I forgive you
 - c. I will be with you
 - d. I will give you peace
 - e. I will watch over you
 - f. I keep my promises
 - g. Put your trust in me
 - h. Because I live you can live with hope