

## Chapter 6

### Easter Sunday

*Preparation:* Read Luke 24:1-53

Everybody felt it: a moment of eerie silence, a low rumble and then the ground began to shake. Buildings swayed and buckled, then collapsed like houses of cards. Less than four minutes later, over thirty-thousand were dead from a magnitude 8.2 earthquake that rocked Armenia in 1989.

In the muddled chaos, a distressed father bolted through the winding streets leading to the school where his son had gone that morning. The man couldn't stop thinking about the promise he'd given his son many times: "No matter what happens Armand, I'll always be there."

He reached the site where the school had been, but saw only a pile of rubble. He just stood there at first, fighting back tears, and then took off, stumbling over debris, toward the east corner where he knew his son's classroom had been.

With nothing but his bare hands, he started to dig. He was desperately pulling up bricks and pieces of wall-plaster, while others stood by watching in forlorn disbelief. He heard someone growl, "Forget it mister, they're all dead."

He looked up, flustered, and replied, "you can grumble, or you can help me lift these bricks." Only a few pitched in, and most of them gave up when their muscles began to ache. But the man couldn't stop thinking about his son.

*Entering into Christ's Passion:*

He kept digging and digging—for hours...twelve hours...eighteen hours... twenty four hours...thirty six hours...Finally, into the thirty-eighth hour, he heard a muffled groan from under a piece of wallboard.

He seized the board, pulled it back and cried, "ARMAND!" From the darkness came a slight shaking voice, "Papa...!?"

When Armand finally emerged, he tried to help dig, until all his surviving classmates were out. Everybody standing there heard him as he turned to his friends and said, "See, I told you my father wouldn't forget us." (From *A Father Who Keeps His Promises* by Scott Hahn, pp. 13-14)

The story of the Armenian father is the story of Easter. All seemed lost. Death appeared to have had the final say; Good Friday seemed to be the end of the story. But we have a God who said He would never abandon us, and on Easter Sunday, our Lord showed us just how much we mean to Him.

*"He was crucified for all, desiring His one death for all to give all of us life in Him."*

✠ **Cyril of Alexandria**

- 1 **Read Luke 24:1-11.** What did the women see at the tomb? What was the reaction of the apostles to their news?
  
- 2 Try to put yourself in the Apostles shoes. In light of the last two days, what do you think the Apostles felt when the women shared their news? How do you think you would have felt?

- 3 **Read Luke 24:12.** Peter's response is a little different than the rest. Why do you think he responds differently?

*The Road to Emmaus*

*"...He is discovered only in the realm of faith; He sets the hearts of the two wanderers aflame by His interpretations of the Scriptures and by breaking bread He opens their eyes."*

☞ **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**

- 4 **Read Luke 24:13-32.** Why do you think the disciples fail to recognize Jesus?

- 5 How do the disciples finally come to recognize who is Speaking to them?

