



### Context

You all know the feeling of *RE-ENTRY*. You leave town for a weekend, vacation or to see family on cloud 9, leaving behind all your mundane worries and responsibilities. But as you near home, they come running out to meet, you not with wagging tails but with cloaks of heaviness.

Mid-week after Easter can feel a bit the same. We celebrate Jesus VICTORY, and our future RESSURECTION, but come back fast to the hard things in our earthly life. Problems, relational challenges, health struggles, work demands, bills, and the hard-fought wrestling with the mundane all come back into focus as the Easter glow fades.

It's especially hard if we are in a book of "Job" like season of challenge. It can feel like whiplash between disappointment and hope... lament and thanksgiving.

### Consider

"The resurrection of Jesus does not erase the wounds of the cross. Jesus is raised with scars still visible, reminders of love that went all the way through suffering and death.

Resurrection does not deny what has been lost; it redeems it. It does not pretend the pain never happened; it shows us that pain does not have the final word.

In the resurrection stories, Jesus meets people where they are, in gardens, on roads, behind locked doors, and around tables. He speaks their names. He listens to their confusion. He walks at their pace. Resurrection life is revealed over time through Jesus's presence.

For many of us, resurrection feels fragile. We want clarity, certainty, and closure. But Scripture shows us that resurrection often arrives before understanding. Faith grows as we learn to trust again, to love again, to hope again—even when everything does not yet make sense.

The slow work of God continues here, too. Resurrection life takes time to inhabit. It reshapes us as we learn to live in the light without forgetting the dark. As apprentices of Jesus, we learn how to carry new life into a world still marked by grief, injustice, and longing". (Quoted with permission from KC Underground)

### Reflect

The Apostle Peter coaches us up on how to navigate this sacred tension... Circle the words or phrases that seem significant.

*"To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces... <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to*

*the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:*

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... 1 Peter 1:1-6 NIV translation*

### Ask

Holy Spirit, remind me of times in my life you have EMPOWERED me to trust and follow you even though I was filled with fear and disappointment.

Jesus, what do you want me to know no about living as an exile?

### Pray

Heavenly Father, lead me now as I pray for myself and \_\_\_\_\_ to experience your living hope.

Holy Trinity, connect me with specific people, to share and show the good news of your kingdom in word, deed, and power.

Jesus, launch new apprentice relationships and house churches across our region.

**Bonus 1** link to amazing song – "Even If" by Mercy Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6fA35Ved-Y>

**Bonus 2** reread the 1 Peter passage in the Message Translation... copied below.

*I, Peter, am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah, writing to exiles scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten. God the Father has his eye on each of you, and has determined by the work of the Spirit to keep you obedient through the sacrifice of Jesus. May everything good from God be yours!*

*<sup>3-5</sup> What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch*

*over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.*

*<sup>6-7</sup> I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.*

*<sup>8-9</sup> You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.*