



"What are you searching for?" Egg hunts, baskets filled with my favorite goodies, children and adults decked out in their finest to attend church, and dinner with all of my extended family. These are the fond Easter memories that I hold from my childhood. When we became parents and our sons were younger, my husband and I hosted egg hunts for our children, our nieces and nephews, and our neighborhood community, aka "our village." We joyfully watched, as the children searched for these prized possessions and bragging rights on who collected the most, and it was never lost on me the efforts they employed to find what they were in search of. As adults, perhaps, we too, are in search of something. Maybe it's joy, peace, love, fulfillment, or our purpose in life. When Mary Magdalene and others came to the tomb after Jesus' crucifixion, they too were on a search; yet, they were met with the words: "He is not here, he has risen." (Luke 24:6, NIV). In the empty tomb, they found everything for which they were searching.

As I have grown in my Christian faith, I have come to understand and deeply appreciate Jesus' intentionality. He came in human form to offer us an example of how to live and love, all the while knowing that His assignment and purpose would require the ultimate sacrifice – death on the cross with the promise of resurrection. Because of His sacrifice, we have each been given an invitation to be redeemed, forgiven, and set free to live a life that is pleasing to God and where we can serve others. We can move through this life, following Jesus' blueprint, all with the anticipation of eternal life in view.

During this Easter and Resurrection season, may we take time to reflect on God's everlasting love for us. May we pause with gratitude to embrace and appreciate the measures Jesus took to secure our salvation. It is my hope and prayer that, just like children earnestly searching for colorful eggs filled with candy, we (re)dedicate time to study scripture, (re)discover God's love for us, and (re)connect with our purpose. God is waiting and eager to commune with us. Let's run to Him!

"And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all of your heart"
(Jeremiah 29:13, NKJV).

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