

20200426 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, Luke 24:13-35
Entangled by trouble and sorrow

INTRODUCTION

1 The thing that happened in Nova Scotia

Since Sunday of April 12 media has produced various news relating to the shooting rampage taken place in Nova Scotia. One of my formal church members who has lived in South Korea sent an email to check out my safety. But I haven't received any email or call from my family and friends in Korea. I talked to my wife, "It seems that they don't know the thing that has happened here the last few days."

2 The thing that happened in Jerusalem

In the Easter Sunday afternoon Cleopas and his companion were going home from Jerusalem. They were saddened that their greatest hope had disappeared. Suddenly, a man they did not recognize came up and asked them. "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then, Cleopas replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days" (NLT, Lk 24:17-18) Their motion and answer showed their guilt, anger, and grief.

Theme: When Christians are entangled by trouble and sorrow, how should we cope with it?

BODY

1 Do not See Your Trouble and Sorrow Only

1.1 William P. Young, [The Shack](#)

One summer, Mack takes his children Josh, Kate, and Missy on a camping trip.

On the last morning of their trip, Josh and Kate go out canoeing. Kate stands up and tries to wave at Mack from the canoe, but it capsizes, trapping Josh below. While Mack swims out to save Josh, Missy is abducted. The police find an abandoned shack in the woods where Missy was taken and murdered by a serial killer. Since then, the family has struggled to recover from Missy's death.

1.2 Struggle to deal with troubles

Psalm 116 may describe Mack's sorrow precisely: "Death wrapped its ropes around me; the terrors of the grave overtook me. I saw only trouble and sorrow" (NLT, Ps 116:3)

We are dealing with a lot of trouble due to COVID-19.

- Financial pressures force our small businesses to close permanently.
- Parents struggle to deal with their children at home.
- Health care workers risk their life to treat their patients.

In addition, we learned that 22 people were killed by a gunman in NS amid a coronavirus lockdown.

1.3 Beyond my trouble and sorrow

In the Shack Mack has caught up with his own sadness and not knowing his daughter Kate's guilt that makes her withdrawn.

Before COVID-19 and the shooting rampage, I only saw my own trouble not recognizing the deep struggle of my children and of African children.

2 Believe Jesus Walks with Us amid Our Trouble and Sorrow

2.1 Is God with us all the time?

When we are in deep trouble, we are tempted to doubt God's word, to lose faith, and to lose sight of God.

We may not recognize God's presence.

But that doesn't mean God isn't there walking with us.

There Jesus brings us in conversation.

There He pays attention to our fears, frustration, and sadness.

There Jesus wipes our tears.

2.2 Call on His name

Psalm 116: 4 says, "Then I called on the name of the Lord: Please, Lord, save me!"

When we believe he walks with us, we should bring him our troubles.

Because He knew our need for salvation during our troubles, we should call on His name.

Because he turns his ear to us, we will call on him as long as we live.

We may not get the answer we want, but we get the answer we need.

3. Engage in Other's Struggle and Sorrow

3.1 email, Sunday deaths

On April 21, I received an email from Rev. PA. McDonald that the RCMP member who was killed in the line of duty was a friend for many years of Rev. Cynthia Chenard.

And a husband and wife among those killed in Portapique were active in the life of the congregation of Saint James', Truro.

We share our experiences and ideas for the purpose of comforting one another and answer the main problems.

But we know our talk does not always lift someone's sadness and answer the question.

3.2 Charles Swindoll, Hope Again

When someone is going through hard times, express your sympathy and weep with them. Put your arm around them. Don't try to make the hurting person pray with you or sing with you if he or she is not ready to do that. Feel what that person is feeling. Walk quietly and compassionately in his or her shoes.

CONCLUSION

The two believers on the road to Emmaus are us.

They are saddened by their diminished hopes.

But as Jesus walk quietly and compassionately in their shoes, suddenly they recognize that Jesus is with them.

They find hope in the breaking of the bread.

They catch a glimpse of hope in our Lord.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).