



Resources for Easter 2 (23-29 April 2017)

Young People Pray: Meditative monologue

Script (*Read slowly in an emotional tone of voice.*)

'What would you have done? What would you have thought? Exactly the same as me, I guarantee!

Grief will make you believe anything, will make you do anything, and as much as I loved my friends I was not going to let wishful thinking put any of us in more danger. We had barely slept and what we were going to do next, none of us knew.

So I had to think, get out and hear what people were saying and whether it might be safe enough for us to leave the city – perhaps go to Emmaus as some of our friends had done – and eventually back to our homes. Where else were we to go? The shame might be too much for some but not for me. I make mistakes and I had to admit that this was one of them. But I could swallow my pride. I could admit that I'd been wrong to go on this fool's errand. Jesus may have let us down, but what he taught us about how to live remains with me.

To hope in the impossible is one thing, but to fall under its spell, believing it to be true, is irrational. Jesus, alive and risen from the dead? Someone has to have their feet on the ground, and that person is me! The others say they have seen him walk and talk but it's clearly the result of strain on their bodies and minds. We all saw him die...'

Pause.

Read the following extract from John's Gospel in a neutral tone of voice.

"A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

Pause.

Resume Thomas' monologue slowly in an excited tone of voice...

'Now, as I look upon him, hear his voice call my name, see him move, touch his wounds – it know it is him, but he's different. And it is not just him that's different, I'm different! I'm sure of it.

That death could ever overpower him seems ridiculous now. Friday made his words seem like lies; today has made them catch fire with and burn with a new intensity. He is more real, more true, more alive than ever before – he is my Lord and my God.'

Pause, then invite the young people to open their eyes when they are ready.