

Easter Sunday 2017

04/16/17

As I looked at the Gospel for last night and realized it was an option for today as well, I decided to use the citation from Matthew today; after all, we are in the year of Matthew. Because, I heard the women told twice they should not be afraid. And yesterday, in the daily meditation book *Jesus Calling*, author Sarah Young also used that as her reflection for. So I heard God telling me pretty clearly that I was to focus on those words today.

Ms. Young starts by reminding us that Jesus tells us to trust Him; don't be afraid, the same words we just heard. Then she goes on to say that many things feel out of control. Our routines are not running smoothly. We tend to feel more secure when our life is predictable. She tells us we should let Jesus lead us to the rock that is higher than us and our circumstances. We are to take refuge in the shelter of Jesus' wings, where we are absolutely secure.

When we are shaken out of our comfortable routines, we are to grip tightly the hand of Jesus and look for growth opportunities. Instead of bemoaning the loss of our comfort, we are to accept the challenge of something new. Jesus will lead us on from glory to glory, making us fit for His kingdom. We are to say yes to the ways Jesus works in our lives. We are to trust Him and we are not to be afraid.

Well, with all due respect to Ms. Young, that's easy for her to say. However, when I'm the one in the midst of a crisis or a whole batch of crises, I'm not usually focused on trusting in God and not being afraid. I want things to be fixed and I want them fixed according to my schedule and not according to someone else's, even if it is God's.

But another fact I've come to realize is that a crisis or batch of crises are much easier to handle when God places the right people in my life, to assist me, to comfort me, to challenge me, to walk with me. And that means I have to trust God and His plan for me. So far His plan has worked out pretty good in my life and I guess that involves trust, involves not being afraid.

Have you ever had a message from a deceased loved one? The right kind of bird or a butterfly or whatever, seemingly appearing out of nowhere. Coincidence? Perhaps. More likely, it's our loved one telling us everything is okay. It's also God's way of telling us not to be afraid, that He has everything under control.