

JOB'S FAITH

Job 19:21-27a Saturday, April 20, 2019

Job 19:25 "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth." (NRSV) Many people are surprised to find that Job uttered these words. Job—who had an undeserved reputation for patience, who had undergone tragic losses that make us cringe when we read them, and who had well-intentioned friends around him trying to make him feel better when they couldn't possibly know what he was feeling—*Job* made this ringing statement of faith in his Redeemer.

Sometimes we don't know what to do with Holy Saturday. The excitement and drama of Palm Sunday are behind us; so is the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We know that joy is coming in the morning, but we aren't quite there yet. Jesus is in the tomb. Even though we know that in the morning we will be celebrating the Resurrection, the sobering events of the preceding week are hanging over us as we try to empathize with those early disciples who did not yet know of the Resurrection.

All of us have times like this in our lives. We may have been through a period that was particularly good, or particularly bad—and we find ourselves in something of a spiritual quiet zone, wondering what will come next. We trust that God will guide us around the next bend, but we can't yet see what's there. When Job said the words quoted above, he was sitting in a heap of ashes, scratching his sores with a pottery fragment, surrounded by friends whom he must have wished would go away. Job answered each friend's pious speech, but we have to wonder if they listened. If they did, this was Job's response: he stated his unshaking belief that his Redeemer would stand on the earth and that he would see this Redeemer with his own eyes.

Today in the life of the church, we seem to be pausing for breath, taking stock of where we are and where we are headed. Wherever we may find ourselves, let us—like Job—keep the faith that we will see our Redeemer!

Prayer: Dear Lord, we pray for guidance and strength as sometimes we struggle to keep our faith strong, we lose the conviction that we will see our Redeemer. Renew our belief and help us fulfil Your mission in the world to make disciples, Amen.

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