

HOLY SURPRISES!

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

April 11, 2020

Have you ever been surprised by something in life that was very different when you saw it than the way you pictured it in your mind? That happened to me just about every day on our recent trip to the Holy Land. Some things were much smaller than I imagined, like the Jordan River. Others were much larger than I had imagined, like the stones used to build the wall around Jerusalem. My surprise was not limited to size. In many cases, the places we went and the things we saw were just very different than I had seen them in my mind. I'm sure some of it is due to the influence of movies and TV shows, and some is just due to my imagination.

One day during our trip, we visited a site where a tomb was located and the guides claimed that it was the one Jesus had been laid in after his crucifixion. (It's a long story, but some people say there is a different tomb site.) This tomb is in a garden, and we were able to walk in and look around for a minute as part of our tour. I'm not really sure what I expected, but it was surprising to say the least to be standing in the site where Jesus had been buried.

As I read today's scripture again with the lens of having been in the garden tomb, I think of the surprise the women must have felt. Jesus' body is gone. An angel tells them "He is not here; he has risen" and they will see him in Galilee. Then they are greeted by Jesus himself! What wonderful, Holy surprises!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Holy surprises. Too often our minds are thinking small, when you are a God of wonder. May we walk with you and find joy in unexpected ways each day. Amen

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