

His Appearance Was Like Lightning

Easter Sunday 2009

Matthew 28: 1-10

(children's Mass)

Did you listen carefully to the Gospel
and watch our awesome visual interpretation of it?
What did you like about this story of Jesus?
What did you find interesting?

There is one thing (well, actually many!) that I like in particular.
Everyone in the story is saying not to be afraid
—which is another way of saying “Peace be with you.”
The angel says it to the women.
Jesus himself says it to the women.
I like this!
I think it is pretty cool.

My question is: what are they afraid of?
What is there to fear with Jesus?
I realize some envision Jesus as really upset.
But, if you look carefully in the gospels, Jesus never hurt a fly.
Some are perhaps afraid of Jesus because love is demanding.
What are the women afraid of?

Well, there were a few incredible things that happened
when Jesus rose from the dead.
What do we read here?
There was an earthquake.
Does anyone know where there was an earthquake recently?
In Italy.
I hope they know that Jesus is close.
Earthquakes are scary. We cannot even imagine what they experienced.
There was also the angel himself whose appearance was like lightning.
Lightning is scary!
There was also Jesus himself.
What was scary about Jesus?
I do not think that there was anything really scary about Jesus,
but something had changed with Jesus.

In fact, after Jesus rose from the dead, *no one* recognized him at first.
That is strange, is it not?
What had changed?
Well, keep in mind that Jesus is God.
During his life on earth as human, he kept the light of God hidden inside.
He did this so to experience hunger and sadness and pain and even death.
When he rose from the dead, that light was shining in his body,
and it changed his body.
Light is not scary, but it is intense.

Look at this egg.
It is so simple.
How many of you like eggs?
An egg is very interesting.
On the outside, it is very simple.
On the inside, it is another story!
When Jesus rose from the dead, the light of God,
what we call *glory*, shone in his body.
Let us see what happens when I break open this egg.
Look at all these colors, like a rainbow!!!

At Easter, God wishes to touch us in a special way.
He wants his light to shine in us—all these colors, like a rainbow!!!
Jesus has risen, and nothing stops God's light or God's love from shining.
Alleluia!