**Reflections-04-16-17**

Easter, resurrection, Fear, Tell

*“What do you do with dead ends?”*

Matthew 28:1-10

1. Most people avoid “dead ends”. Do you recall a time when you were blessed by pursuing a dead end?
2. Some would say that Mary & Mary were heroes in the Easter story. When confronted by earthquakes, a sparkling angel, frozen guards, and a resurrected Jesus, they kept their cool. Do you identify with these two Mary’s? If yes, explain, or if not … why not?
3. The two Mary’s experienced the tragedy of Holy Week with the betrayal, the denial, the sentencing, the crucifixion, and the burial of Jesus. In spite of all of that, on Sunday morning they came to the cave (tomb). Why do you think they did that? Did they see something that the disciples didn’t see? Would you have done that?
4. The angel said to the Mary’s “Do not be afraid”. Do you think fear stops you from doing what God wants you to do? Have you ever felt like an angel is pushing you beyond your fear?
5. Do you remember the last time you were “fearless”? Why didn’t fear stop you then?
6. The message that the angel and Jesus sends with the Mary’s is “Tell Others”. Do you think that’s the same message we should be declaring today? What stops us?
7. Do you believe that God meets us at “the dead ends”?

**Matthew 28:1-10**

28After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he\* lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead,\* and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’