

Jesus comes to the helpless and broken.

Who met the Lord that first Easter morning? He came to the broken, the grieving, those who had failed, the depressed, the fearful and anxious, poor sinners. So it is today. He meets us in our poverty not our strengths, our brokenness not our self confidence.

Perhaps, we can share a story with you. There was a young woman who wanted to serve God but it all went wrong. Unwittingly she sought God yet strayed from him. There was a constant sense of failure knowing that she was trying hard yet not managing to reach the mark.

It all came to a head when she failed an oral exam. Having always found oral exams daunting the thought of taking it again filled her with fear. Failure also dented her pride. In addition there was some controversy about this exam. Some thought that she should have passed. This helped to sow the seeds of resentment. One day she found to her dismay that instead of possessing the resentment, the resentment possessed her. So not only was her pride dented but also her self-righteousness.

At last she confessed to another person who explained that grace comes when we are helpless. She couldn't grasp it saying, "It is no good I can't make it". The reply that she didn't have to make it she found incomprehensible. Later, alone in a deserted chapel and unable to find words she opened a hymn book. A sentence lifted from the page, "You know my name, my misery and my sin declare (it)". So God knew her, her unhappiness and how resentful she was. She realised that the Kingdom of God was real and moreover she was outside it. Yet she had an inner certainty that she was near.

In this state she continued for two days. There was nothing she could do. The evening of the second day about 9 p.m. she was alone in her room when suddenly the Risen Lord Jesus appeared. He said, "I died for you." In an instant the resentment was gone, there

was assurance of forgiveness and sadness turned to joy. She fell in love with the Lord Jesus from that moment.

Jesus, our risen Lord still comes to the helpless, the broken and poor sinners. How do we know this story is true? It was one of the Sisters who is now in our community.



"I died for you!"