

Jeremy's Story

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During my Graduate Studies in the USA, I met the Director of Youth Programming for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Father Mike had grown up in an Ultra-Conservative Jewish home but had become an Episcopalian. His family disowned him and even had a funeral for him. That was the first time I met someone who had given up so much to become a Christian.

Father Mike's wife was a special needs teacher in a Chicago Catholic School. One of her classroom experiences has been published in many magazines and devotional books -

Eight-year-old Jeremy was mentally challenged. He also had serious health issues that caused him to miss many school days.

In April, the teacher asked the class to put together one plastic Easter egg filled with a small object representing new life in the Spring.

Thinking that Jeremy might not understand and not wanting to embarrass him, the teacher had all the children place the eggs on her desk so she could open them. The first egg contained a tiny wild flower, which was an indication of new life. Next came a rock. The teacher assumed the rock was Jeremy's since rocks don't symbolize new life and growth. But as she opened the egg with the rock in it a little boy shouted out that the rock had moss on it and that is new life. The teacher agreed.

A butterfly flew out of the next egg and the little girl that brought it bragged that the butterfly was hers. The fourth egg was empty. The teacher thought this had to be Jeremy's egg so nervously passed it by and quickly moved on to the next egg. But Jeremy announced that the empty egg was his. Hesitating the teacher replied, "But it's empty." "That's right!" said Jeremy. "Just like Jesus' tomb, and that means new life for everyone."

Later that same summer, Jeremy's condition worsened and he died. At the funeral on his casket the children had placed plastic Easter eggs among the flowers. Some people that did not know the story were puzzled. But no floral spray, no matter how beautiful, could ever convey the wonderful message those eggs told. An empty tomb some two thousand years earlier gave Steven the hope of a new life.



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Clearly, Jeremy had made a deep personal connection with the resurrection. Jesus' empty tomb and the hope of new life in Christ had come alive in Jeremy's heart. St. Paul affirmed –

...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 9: 9-10 NKJV)

Do you have this belief? Those who have made Jesus Lord of their lives and who believe that Christ was raised from the dead have this assurance!