



The Darker the Night, the Brighter the Day

JOHN 20:1-18

MESSAGE BY FATHER CHUCK OWENS

“The darker the night, the brighter the day”

Thoughts to Ponder

1. Years ago, my youngest sister had a massive heart attack; she was soon declared dead and taken off life support . . . she lingered for almost a week; my mother never left her side.
 - a. Have you ever been in a similar situation? If so, please share as much as you can, noting particularly your emotions.
 - b. As my mother stood vigil by my sister’s bed, the nights seemed to be never-ending. Describe a time when waiting was agonizing for you.
 - c. How does your faith impact on the tragedies others experience?

“Weeping may remain for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

Psalm 30:5

2. We all want to believe our tears are temporary and joy will be the permanent reality.
 - a. Do you believe this? If so, why? If not, why not?
 - b. "God uses our darkness to draw us closer to His Son who is the light of the world." Describe a time when your faith was strengthened by tragedy.

3. In Luke 8:2, we're told that Jesus caused seven demons to come out of Mary Magdalene; perhaps those demons were the same ones that attack many of us: helplessness, hopelessness, self-consciousness, insecurity, unworthiness, rejection and fear.
 - a. Which two of these demons have you struggled with most over the years? Please give examples.
 - b. Are you still possessed by any of these demons? Explain. If not, how were you freed from their grasp? Explain.

4. In this world, darkness is an unavoidable reality . . . but by faith we know that "the darker the night, the brighter the day."
 - a. Describe an event that made this truth real for you.
 - b. God is at work all night long in the lives of His children. Do you believe this? Why?

