

Symbol of Change

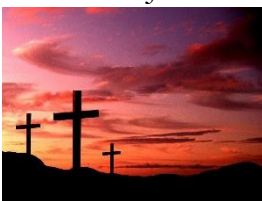
This weekend, we are caring for our daughter's Persian cat while they are away. The cat's name is Claire. Claire is a homebody and does not want any change in her routine. Before becoming a member of my daughter's family, she had a difficult life. Claire expects meals to be on time, and she finds security in staying in her own home. The mere appearance of her pet carrier is a signal that something is about to change. Claire knows that the pet carrier means one of two things: an unpleasant trip to the vet or that she is headed to the unknown of another location. The suitcases that my daughter and her husband packed were a clue that she wouldn't be going with them. For Claire, the carrier was a symbol of fear and the unknown. She whined the entire trip to our house, not knowing what the future held for her.

Upon arrival at our home, the pet carrier was placed on the floor of our sunroom door was opened. What once evoked fear in the cat was instantly transformed into a place of security. When the carrier door was opened, Claire retreated to the far back corner, not to come out into the open for at least 45 minutes.

As Jesus came into Jerusalem, He knew that everything was about to change. He exactly what was going to happen. To everyone else, the cross was a symbol of pain and was one of the most gruesome ways to suffer and die. Jesus even asked His Heavenly Father if there was any way He could avoid it, yet He was loyal to His Father's Will. *Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will"* (Matthew 26:39).

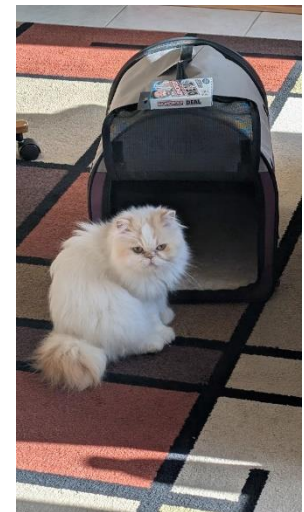
Just like the pet carrier, the cross became a symbol of security. We live in an uncertain world, but Jesus made the cross to be, not only a symbol, but an expression of love and sacrifice for believers. Because of Jesus' time on the cross, the unknown of our destiny became the Hope for an eternal destination. Jesus paved the way to give us freedom from the eternal consequences of our sins and the Hope for an eternal destination. It is our security for the future.

Over the weekend, Claire gradually warmed up to us as she learned to trust us. Thankfully, we have learned to understand Jesus' sacrifice for us and what it means. When it came time for Claire to be transported home in the carrier, even in the company of our daughter, she became scared again. She didn't know what was going to happen next. Thankfully, we know what comes next after the cross. The cross is the carrier that will eventually bring us home. We, in turn, look forward to being home with Jesus for eternity.



The Bible Says: *But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5). "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Closing Prayer: Most gracious Heavenly Father. We may seem comfortable living in an earthly setting, but the sacrifice of your son, Jesus Christ, gives us Hope for something better. Let us step out in faith as we seek an eternal home with You. Amen.



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