

## He Got Up!

Mark 1:35, Matthew 28:5-6, Romans 8:11

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*“It isn’t what you leave your children but how you leave them.” - Milton Hershey*

Before Milton Hershey was a successful confectioner, he founded two companies that failed. The third time was the charm for Hershey, who went on to leave a legacy of goodness behind. But his tenacity isn’t the most impressive thing about him. Above all, Hershey lived a life of service. Just nine years after he sold his first chocolate bar, he and his wife built a school for the orphaned boys in their community. The couple never had biological children, but considered the boys they served their kids. Nine years after that, Hershey gifted his entire fortune to the Hershey School Trust, after the death of his beloved wife.



### How Did Jesus Leave Us?

The scriptures are the story of God. The gospels are the truths he left behind for us, after he ascended to heaven. The Word is a guide for those of us who profess to follow Jesus - how we are to live. He became flesh to heal the broken and to offer Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our infinite sins. This month, as we celebrate His triumph over death, let’s look to His Word to see *how* he left us.

He left us with a model for how to commune with our Father. “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mark 1:35). I do a lot better in my day if I get up early, before my household awakens, spending time talking to God and listening to His answers (or His silence). It grounds me in Him first, and it ensures I remember Who is first. It doesn’t mean my day will be perfect, but it does help me to react better when things fall apart. It helps me to love better. Getting up early isn’t for everyone, or every season of life. The most important thing is to take time out, quietly and away, to focus on your relationship with God. To speak to Him and listen.

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he is risen, just as he said.’” (Matthew 28:5-6). He left us with an assurance. We do not have to be afraid, even when we are looking for Him but cannot see Him or feel Him. It happens to all of us - the feeling that we are praying out into an unhearing, unfeeling, neverending void. We doubt. But God is here with us. He hears. He feels. He is the neverending everything. If only

we would trust in the unseen. We can believe what He says. Sometimes it helps take a moment to remember what He has done in the past.

“And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11) He left us with a Spirit inside us full of the same power that rose Jesus. And that wonder-working power is what connects us to the Father, helps us to conquer our fears and our (perceived) failures, and gives us the strength, wisdom, and compassion to serve others.

**Reflect:**

- How does Jesus leave you? How do you feel after spending time with Him?
- Where in your life or in the life of someone you love has a perceived failure turned out to be a triumph?

**Dig a little deeper:**

- He left us with a Comforter. Read John 14:16, John 14:26, John 15:26, and John 16:7
- This [song](#) about the Holy Spirit has always been one of my favorites.
- I happened upon this [playlist](#) for quiet time with God while looking for the song above.
- Lord, help me to remember You *are* present in my life. Help me to believe you care for me. You are my Helper and my Comfort. Help me to put you first, to spend time alone with you every single day. Help me to not be afraid because your might is mine. And then fortify me to look outside of myself; to give of myself to others.

**REFERENCES**

Milton Hershey The Man Behind Good Business and Good Chocolate

[https://www.thehersheycompany.com/en\\_us/home/about-us/milton-hershey.html](https://www.thehersheycompany.com/en_us/home/about-us/milton-hershey.html)

The Bible Gateway, NIV

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