SpringCleaning: *MUST GO*

Psalm 51:10-11, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." (NKJV)

I wonder if you ever had something spoil in your fridge or a rodent die in the walls or attic of your home? One Colorado Easter when I was a child, we hid Easter eggs inside because of the blizzard outside. Imagine our surprise a few weeks later when our noses found the egg we hadn't been able to locate!

It must have smelled that way on Day 4. Let's go to the tomb where Jesus' best friend Lazarus had been buried (John 11). Not only is Lazarus' sister Martha miffed at Jesus because He did not come when they called, but she also is indignant that He would even consider opening the sealed burial site when Jesus finally arrives. She exclaims, 'Master, he stinketh! He's been dead four days.' (v.39)

Keep in mind, Jesus cared deeply for these people. They were his friends, Lazarus his best friend. When he fell ill, his sisters, Mary and Martha summoned Him. And He purposefully delayed. Death by delay!

Has anything in your life ever 'died' due to God's delay to heal the detail you laid sickly at His feet? How you must have admonished Him, like Martha; bemoaned, like Mary; like mankind, questioned! So the dream died, the one you took to Him, wrapped in request, bathed in begging, steeped in surrender. You sent word and He assured you...He was on His way. But...where? And what you entrusted to God ended up being laid to rest. And you weren't ready. For the delay, the denial, the death. It upended in sorrow. But God! we must remember, God grieved. The heart of God in the person of Jesus Christ wept at the loss of His friend. Instead, however, surrounded by an emotionally exhausted family, doubtful disciples, and pressing people, He entered the tomb of a dead man. And what followed the Son of God out of that place of death was life!

Sometimes, we need to let something pass away so Jesus can make a miracle, so He can bring belief to life again. In His timing, not our own. If Jesus had come straightaway when His friends called and had He healed a sick man, they would've never needed to trust Him for what they could not see with their eyes or conceive in their hearts.

Beloved, it is time to clean house. Much has happened in your life since you 'cleaned house' last Spring! And the first place we need to begin is the disposal of decaying and dead dreams. What you hoped to be that hasn't made it. Perhaps that piece of you inside that feels like it has died, truly needed to, so the unbelief in you could be resurrected to life again. I promise, if Jesus can raise from the grave, a dead man, He can certainly resurrect what is dying in you. If a hope of yours has crawled to a cranny to die, you have a Redeemer who calls dead things out of corners to walk again. Maybe you are facing the unexpected loss of a loved one who left too soon. Perhaps someone you hoped would leave has snuck into a crawl space and refused to go. Maybe a mistake laid eggs and multiplied or a dream died or you wrapped a hope in grave clothes and laid it to rest. What retreated into hiding in you can be raised to life again so the stench of death will be excised and cleansed. If Lazarus, friend of Jesus, can leave that grave behind, so too can you, child of the Most High God.