

040118 Easter Sunday

After Jesus was crucified died and was buried...there was a three day interval where life in and around Jerusalem carried on...but not the same... And that is the way it is when anyone has an encounter with the Lord...what was going on those three days...is very instructive to us...

When you encounter Jesus...Life will carry on but it is not the same....There had been many Passover weekends but none like this one and The Master's men and women were torn with misgivings...Most of them had had enough of Jerusalem. It was now a cruel and forbidding city. They had come here again and again with Jesus, always to counter caustic confrontations.

- Always there had been conflict between their Lord and the religious leaders. And at last it looked as though they themselves had become the great losers... Jesus lost and was dead and buried... **They must have wondered over the weekend...did we blow it??**
- they had lost their careers for Jesus
- most had lost their old lives
- They had lost their leader and they had lost credibility
- Most of them were eager to join the throngs leaving the city
- And they were in fear for their lives from the Jewish religious leaders
- Bottom line ...they were unsure and did not understand...what was happening, they were setting the example for all those who have followed Jesus since...we often don't understand...and sometimes become unsure of that which we were previously sure...

it affected everyone who knew Jesus...they responded to his crucifixion in different ways...

They feared...because they did not understand...

**The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the one element that makes Christianity not only superior to every other religion, but totally different from every other religion. Someone has rightly said, "Christianity begins where other religions end: with the resurrection of Jesus Christ." every other religion of the world can point to a founding father, and they can even point to his grave. But only Christianity points to an empty tomb and says the Good news is, "our founder is alive."**

**So in reporting this Good News...lets clarify the term Resurrection...**

(Tim please put this on the screen)

**The word Resurrection is a noun; which means to Rise from the dead...to bring what was dead to life!**

**So "Resurrection means a return to a physical body in a physical universe on a physical earth.**

(Tim please put this on the screen)

**However, Jesus resurrection takes it a step further His resurrection means-an eternal future for fully restored human beings dwelling on a fully restored earth in a fully restored universe connected to a fully united heaven- or there is no good news about Christianity...**

- **It is the most important doctrine and event of the Christian Faith, for every other doctrine only has value if we live again after we die in bodily form..**
- **Jesus did not just die to remove our sins; if He merely died, then death has the last word.**
- **Without the resurrection, the Christian religion comes tumbling down — like taking the bottom piece out of jenga.**

**Listen to what The Apostle Paul says...**

*1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

*1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

- 1. If Jesus did not resurrect...What we preach is fake news... has absolutely no value...**
- 2. If Jesus did not resurrect...Our Faith is useless... since it is based on fake news**
- 3. If Jesus did not resurrect...We are false reporters about God...we are liars and should not be believed with any news we share pertaining to God...**
- 4. If Jesus did not resurrect... Jesus death on the cross to take away sin is of absolutely no value ...completely fake news!**
- 5. If Jesus did not resurrect...He then is still dead.... and Christianity is the meanest cruelest HOAX— it is a lie and sadistic.**
- 6. If Jesus did not resurrect...we just sang to a dead man, we prayed to a dead man, I foolishly preach about a dead man, and you idiotically come to church to hear about him, we worship a powerless dead man, we put trust in a dead man! We would truly be the most gullible of all people who believe fake news!!**
- 7. Death is the fundamental human problem...if we cannot overcome it then there is no good news...**

*1 Corinthians 15:32 .....If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”*

- **for if death is really final then nothing is worthwhile save self-indulgence.**
- **But Jesus did rise and the Resurrection is real...**
- **Remember...Resurrection means a permanent return to a physical body in a physical universe on a physical earth. Resurrection means to restore life to its former condition and existence...**
- **Why? Our physical bodies are an essential aspect of who we are, not just shells for our spirits to inhabit ...**

***Genesis 2:7** the LORD God **formed** the man from the dust of the ground **and breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit), and the man became **a living being**.*

- **Death was and is an abnormal condition because it tears apart what God created and joined together ...not only human beings but all God's creation**
- **And Paul tells us something else...He expounds on the depth of Resurrection...it includes all of his creation...Just as all creation was effected by the fall of man...the redemption effects all of creation...**

***Romans 8:21** .... the creation itself will be **liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God**. **Romans 8:22** We know that the whole creation has been **groaning** as in the pains of **childbirth** right up to the present time.*

- **This damaged creation cries out to be repaired...and it is His plan to repair it. He is going to remodel the old earth on a grand scale...**
- **Interesting term ..Childbirth...the new life is waiting to be born...**
- **but there is groaning and pain associated with it...but the new life is coming...**
- **the earth groans while waiting .. we groan also as we wait for the full number to come in...**
- **What is the glory?? We will resurrected and live again forever in this renewed and restored creation...**

*1COR 15: **42** So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. **The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;***

- **these bodies from birth are perishable... this is the body's current weakness**
- **but will be restored to its proper glory and resurrected imperishable...there will be continuity...**
- **it will be an earthly and spiritual body.... in unity and powerful!! This info was too much for the apostles to grasp...and sometimes it is to much for us...because we get caught up in the now of life....**

**...and the night before he died... he told them they would not understand...**

*John 12:16* At first his disciples did not **understand** all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. *John 13:7* Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

*John 16:12* "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear

- **These disciples were setting the example for all those who have followed Jesus since...we often don't understand...and sometimes become unsure of that which we were previously sure...**
- **They believed him to be the expectant messiah...but he died**
- **A dead Messiah is no Messiah...A dead God is no God...**

**\*\*\*Lets pick up the story of when they finally understood Jesus' plan..... a few of the women were going to go back to the tomb on the third day to to give him a proper burial and anointing.**

**lets read a part of the News story as it unfolds... a few of the women were going to go back to the tomb on the third day to to give him a proper burial and anointing.**

1. they did not believe he would rise from the dead at least literally...so they were going to do the proper Jewish burial procedures...
2. the idea being to ward off and delay body decomposition ...At least we can anoint Jesus and say we love you...and good bye

*LK 24:1* **On the first** day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " <sup>8</sup> **Then they remembered his words.**

- We can believe and love Jesus ...just like these ladies did
- And still believe that Jesus cannot do what he said he would ...
  - they mistakenly believed a tomb...could hold Jesus
  - **that a tomb is bigger then Jesus, something can actually hold Jesus in...**

<sup>5</sup> *In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"*

- Sometimes there are dead places in our lives which once held life
- **a dead place...is Anything that looks final, hopeless, dead the best I can do then is to go there disappointed, heartbroken and anoint Jesus.**
- There can be tombs in our hearts...places where we believe Jesus cant bring life to.
- Habits...that we can't get victory over, attitudes, unwillingness to step out because of past failures...or hopes dashed or dreams which turn into nightmares...

Go back to *Luke 24: 6 He is not here; he has risen*

You need to know a few things...

- The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus Out but to let them see in....
- So they could see that what they thought it was about...it wasn't
- The past and the present is the doorway to the future...
- Things aren't always as they seem
- **God is a God of surprises...you will never figure his ways out...**
- **That is good because if we could figure him out... ..I would question his intelligence.**

**God has to remove that which blocks us from seeing the living God...our weakness in faith...our eyes of faith are so easily blinded...by disappointment and pain.**

- And more importantly... Jesus ... power is greater than any Place of Death
- Don't look for the living God in places that are dead...Jesus is alive
- He isn't where death is a tomb
- He is where Life is and if your alive, he is right there...
- When your mission is done then you leave...if your still breathing Jesus is there
- And These places aren't always where sin is...

**Sometimes there where life once was...but now it is a dead place...**

**the disciples believed in Jesus ....but that place of life died for a bit...it needed to be resurrected**

**So we pick up the narrative their response to the women ...**

*LK 24:9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.*

*JN 20:3* So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> **(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)**

**the women are told something else....**

*JN 20:10* Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup> **but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb** <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

*JN 20:13* They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

*JN 20:15* "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." *JN 20:16* Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). *JN 20:17* Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" "

*JN 20:18* Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

- **She called Him Rabboni...the I means personal...he was now her personal master because she saw him alive...**
- **The one she thought was dead...He is alive**

**When Mary grabs him she sees and remembers his earthly ministry he is back...she is not letting go this time.....But he must go to heaven...**

*JN 20:17* Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, **'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'** "

- **Jesus was God...death could not hold him...he came to free us from it... that which could hold us..**
- **And he was going to go back He see's his and her God and Father... and must present his shed blood and crucified body to his Father as the payment in full for the debt owed to God by man because of sin...**

*Rom 6:23* For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**To present himself to the Father the perfect sacrifice...the perfect amends...**

*HEB 9: 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

*HEB 9:24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. <sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all **at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.***

- **He did not just die for my sins; He rose for my life. When He rose, I rose in Him**
- **But not only did he do that then .... He is doing this right now:**

*HEB 10: 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>13</sup> Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, <sup>14</sup> because by one sacrifice he has **made perfect forever** those who are being **made holy.***

- **Sitting at the right hand of God**
- **Defeating His enemies**
- **His sacrifice made all who believe spiritually perfect**
- **While he is making them holy while they live here**

**So we can come to Him with confidence..**

*HEB 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive **mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

- **And because he lives forever...he can save completely because he always intercedes for us...**

*HEB 7: 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to **save completely** those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

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**And here is the great news..this resurrection body is similar to what our resurrection body will be like.**

*1JN 3: 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been **made known**. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is.*

**Paul speaks of it like this...**

*Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will **be like his glorious body**.*

**possibly use some of this...**

**\*\*\* And what about Peter ...**

- **And Peter...hiding...beating himself up over his failure as a friend and disciple for his public betrayal of his Lord...**
- Realizing...how much the fear of people still ruled his life...

But he was so sure of himself...but he actually knew less than he thought..like us sometimes and then suffered under a cloud of uncertainty and misunderstanding of the ways of Jesus...and are perplexed...

and what Jesus had said to him...

*LK 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But **I have prayed** for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

*LK 22:33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."*

*LK 22:34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."*

- He would fail...but his faith would prevail...
- **He would deny Jesus and run away...but when he stopped running away...his faith would bring him back to Jesus...how? His faith that Jesus loved him in spite of himself...that is great faith...**
- And then he would bring back his other brothers who also ran away...

Do you remember what Jesus said to Peter who was not altogether happy about Jesus washing his feet? Jesus said,

*JN 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" JN 13:7 Jesus replied, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**"*



- That is the banner anyone who follows Jesus waves...we don't realize what he is doing now...but later we will understand...

And then Jesus said to his disciples, later that night...

*JN 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.*

**Our learning appears to be incremental.**

**\*\*\*\*\*But not only Peter or the disciples.....their were secret disciples who became emboldened.....**who did not understand that Jesus would rise from the dead...two members of the Sanhedrin...just put their coveted positions in jeopardy after Jesus death....

- Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus... social and religious status would be changed because of their actions on behalf of Jesus...being secret followers to open disciples...What cost would they have to pay...

*JN 19:38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup> He was accompanied by **Nicodemus**, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. **Nicodemus** brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup> At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

And the many, other followers of Jesus... who were just plain heartbroken, disappointed, depressed...and getting ready to head home .... Or holed up in homes

- They had known Jesus...as their Rabbi...Teacher
- Many had experienced his Miracle working power personally but All had witnessed it
- They had watched his life and sat under his teaching
- They had served him and with him in various ways and differing times
- They believed him to be the expectant messiah...Now he is dead
- **A dead Messiah is no Messiah...A dead God is no God**

**And that's what his followers were thinking...**

- **Hiding ...wondering what went wrong...trying to make sense of it all...disappointed again...**
- **Six days ago He was called the Messiah...he reached the mountain top...now dead...we have sunk to the lowest depths**

- **Others going home...back to life as they knew it...**
- **But a few of the women were going to go back to the tomb to at least give him a proper burial.**
- they did not believe he would rise from the dead at least literally...so they were going to do the proper Jewish burial procedures...the idea being to ward off and delay body decomposition **At least we can anoint Jesus and say thanks for the good run, the good try...**
- **Thanks Jesus, you certainly did your part...but the people killed you... let's just go back and sit at that place**

**Some wanted to at least give him a decent burial.....**

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LK 24:1 *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.*

- **The women came to the tomb very early, before it was light outside ...The women were looking NOT for a resurrected man, but for a DEAD man.**

<sup>2</sup> *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but **the men** said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> **He is not here; he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” <sup>8</sup> *Then they remembered his words. (the fellas not so much)**

<sup>9</sup> *When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> **But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.***

- **We can believe in and love Jesus ...just like these ladies did...And still believe that Jesus cannot do what he said he would ... like the apostles did**
- **They did what a lot of Christians do...they spiritualized the resurrection which in effect denies it...There will be a resurrection kind of...we live in a spiritual state in heaven forever**
- **It is God's standard operating procedure for His work in the present to not be fully or often even halfway understood... They understood his plans better through hindsight...**

- In retrospect, the disciples saw how Jesus had led them into a deeper and better understanding of his truth after he spoke it
- But it is through obedience and experience which takes time ...do we begin to understand his working out of His great plans...
- At this point in our lives ...not one person in here fully understands what God is doing with your life and in your life ....and through your life...
- **the women believed ...the guys were a little slower**

...that same evening..

*JN 20:19* On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. *The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

- But there is something that transcends understanding...and that is peace...peace in our hearts...Peace because we are ok with God...
- **Peace be with you and me...he is stating...no need to fear we are at peace...I am alive like I told you...death or separation has been overcome...we will live together in Peace...the relationship between God and man is healed...**
- But he adds something to it...because you and the Father are at peace I give you the promised Holy Spirit
- ...breathed the Holy Spirit into them....

*JN 20:21* Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- **They will never be separated from his love...and given the promised Holy Spirit**

**Eph 1:** <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing **our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- **for they were sealed by the Holy Spirit as a deposit guarantying their inheritance...what is our inheritance? Resurrection..**
- Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of a restoration that he will complete upon his return. Part of this will be the resurrection of all the dead in Christ, who will "awake," be embodied and participate in the renewal

*Romans 8:11* 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

**The Spirit is at work in each of us right now!!! He can resurrect anything that has**

**died...** We have resurrection power...working in us...

*JN 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;<sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* **The most important truth of our faith!**

*He is the good news then and he is the good news now...but the complete story has not been written... like everything Jesus does...it is a story still being written...in the current News of your life!*

*2 Corinthians 3:3 You show that **you are** a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the **living** God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

*Be the bearer of the good news...*

*End*

**Job had this revelation...as he lived in his weak and diseased body...**

*Job 19:25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.26 And after my skin has been destroyed, **yet** in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.*

- **He believed his redeemer...the restorer of his earthly body...will resurrect his body to stand on the earth..and literally see God!**
- **A dead redeemer is no redeemer...A dead God is no God...**