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|  Isaiah 65:17-25John 20:1-18 | Easter Sunday – Risen Indeed! | Pinelands – 9am – 20/04/2025  |

“The Lord is Risen!”…

 Response… **“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”**

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 Response… **“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”**

SO WHAT?... SO, WHAT does that mean?

IT MEANS…

 Jesus who was crucified… Is alive again

 Jesus who was dead and buried…

 Is now walking around again

 Jesus has defeated death

 The grave cannot hold down the giver of life

 Satan was defeated and Jesus is victorious

 The prophecies of the Old Testament came true.

Those are some of the…

Sunday School, Encyclopaedic,

Quick response, Dictionary definition,

Answers… we have learned over the years.

BUT… **WHAT** does **“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”…**

***MEAN TO YOU?***

What Does It Mean to you…

 While you are going about your daily chores at home?

 While you are going through a personal crisis?

 While you are fighting with your spouse?

 While you are overwhelmed by a circumstance out of your control?

**“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”**

What Does It mean to you…

 When you feel all alone in the world?

 When you are confused, irritated and frustrated…

for whatever reason?

 When The world is in Chaos and crashing down around you?

We often say things that we have learned to say…

 BUT… we do not really know what we are saying

 *(sometimes because we do not know what else to say)*

Things like… “I will pray for you.” *(But do we pray?)*

 “You will get over this” *(Yes, But how?)*

 “Trust in the Lord” *(What does that mean?)*

**WHAT** does **“The Lord is Risen Indeed!”…**

***MEAN TO YOU?***  (Pause)

What does it mean to you… for you…

Deep down in your Soul?

 Deep down in your heart?

A young minister who’s mother died in Holy week…

 Was now spending easter with his family and not his church.

He sent an email to his colleagues…

 Explaining that his mother had passed away… then wrote…

 *“Until today, Easter was the most important thing*

 *in my life… BUT Today, the most important thing*

 *is the resurrection."*

 ***“The Lord is Risen, He is Risen indeed!”***

That young minister confronted with the devastating loss of his mother…

Realised… Amongst all the Holy Week Services and Favourite hymns

 Despite the significance of Services and Easter parades…

 ALL THAT FADED into Insignificance…

 What was left was the Message of Faith…

 **"The Lord is Risen… He is risen indeed!!"**

**WHAT** does **“He is Risen Indeed”…**

***MEAN TO YOU?***

I would like to share with you, this Easter Morning…

 What… **“He is Risen Indeed!!”** means to me.

**FIRSTLY** – Statement of Hope

As Mary comes to the tomb early that Sunday morning,

 She came… NOT in HOPE but in Grief, to anoint the body

She returns and calls Simon Peter and John…

 They come… NOT in HOPE but because they are confused

They came in HOPELESS…

 And further wounded to find that Jesus’ body had been moved.

His body… was not where they had placed it just a few days before.

 Stolen? Victim of a hideous prank

 the last physical reminder of Jesus’…

WAS GONE.

MARY…

Devastated and weeping,

Collapsed at the entrance of the tomb…

 Blinded by hopeless tears,

 Almost unimpressed by the angels in the tomb.

 *(They do not even need to use their usual*

 *greeting of “Do not be Afraid”)*

 So Grieved Mary does not recognize the one who…

Speaks and Seeks to offer comfort to her.

Only when he calls her name- ***"Mary"-*** does she recognize him.

 THEN… as we read Scripture Jesus appears to the Disciples

 And crowds until his Ascension.

This is where **“He is Risen Indeed!!”** becomes a statement of HOPE.

**This LIFE** ***(Life as we know it)*** **is NOT** all there is.

**THERE IS…**

Life after this life *(Jesus is raised back to life)*

 Jesus is Alive Attested to by witnesses

A Number of Events

Jesus braais and eats fish on the beach

Jesus can be touched in the upper room

Jesus can be seen on the road to Emmaus

**THERE IS…**

Something greater beyond physical death – RESURRECTION

 Jesus is Resurrected *(different)* ***NOT*** Resuscitated *(same as before)*

 Jesus could disappear and appear at will

Road to Emmaus – vanished from their sight.

Upper room – Appeared behind locked doors

 Jesus NOT bound by time and space…

 RESURRECTED

WE have something to look forward to compared with our present…

 **That Gives us HOPE**

**“He is Risen Indeed!!” – Is a Statement of HOPE**

**SECONDLY** – Statement of Cope

Mary and the Disciples come to the Tomb GRIEVING

- Distraught, Fearful…

 Then Confused and Disorientated.

**BUT…** Jesus Meets them…

 In the Garden – While crying

 On the Road to Emmaus – While they are journeying

 In the upper Room *(without Thomas then with Thomas)*

- In their fear and wondering

 On the Beach - while they are working and fishing

Rev Brian Burger put it into words for me…

 **Sorrow** on one hand and **Joy** on another

**This LIFE… *(Life as we know it)*** at this Moment **IS** all there is.

**Christ is PRESENT** in this Moment… Because he is **Resurrected**

On our Emmaus Road…

 The Life Journey we are on… Careers, Family, Tasks,

 Busyness, Activities

 Joys and Sorrows

 The Good and the Bad…

 The Resurrected Jesus is Present – we Cope

In our Upper Rooms…

 The places we retreat to… out of Fear, Confusion,

 Frustration, isolation.

 The places we retreat to… Emotionally and Mentally

The Slog and the Exciting…

 The Resurrected Jesus is Present – we Cope

On our Beaches…

 The places we go to… Relax, Socialise, Recharge,

 Isolate, Meditate, Gain Perspective,

 The Easy and the Hard…

 The Resurrected Jesus is Present – we Cope

**“He is Risen Indeed!!” – Is a Statement of COPE**

**Luke Timothy Johnson**, in his book ***“The Real Jesus”,*** writes:

***"The Christian claim concerning the resurrection of Jesus is not that he***

***picked up his old manner of life, but rather that after death he entered into an entirely new form of existence, one in which he shared the power of God and in which he shared that power with others. The resurrection experience, then, is not simply something that happened to Jesus but is equally something that happened to Jesus’ followers."***

*(The Real Jesus, 134)*

We are an Easter People,

 A People of the Resurrection,

 A People of HOPE who can COPE…

The Lord is Risen… He is Risen Indeed!!

 HE IS WITH US… HE IS PRESENT!!

**Isaiah 65:17-25 The New Creation**

The Lord says, “I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten. Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create. The new Jerusalem I make will be full of joy, and her people will be happy. I myself will be filled with joy because of Jerusalem and her people. There will be no weeping there, no calling for help. Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be a hundred will be considered young. To die before that would be a sign that I had punished them. People will build houses and get to live in them—they will not be used by someone else. They will plant vineyards and enjoy the wine—it will not be drunk by others. Like trees, my people will live long lives. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. I will bless them and their descendants for all time to come. Even before they finish praying to me, I will answer their prayers. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. On Zion, my sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil.”

**John 20:1-18** **The Empty Tomb**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her.

She answered, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!”

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who is it that you are looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (This means “Teacher.”)

“Do not hold on to me,” Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.”

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.