**“In fact …”**

Isaiah 65:17-25

1 Corinthians 15”19-26

Luke 24:1-12

 Easter, April 17, 2022

“**In fact** Christ has been raised from the dead.”

**He is risen!** He **is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Bridge**

It amazes me what civilization gets **surprised by**. It seems that the last couple of years have been **shocking** in contagious disease and now modern-day invasion by one country upon another. That we can come to expect that things run smoothly and insurance and an organized human system guards us from calamity or serious concern is what we’ve allowed ourselves to be **numbed-down to**. But that **numbing** has made us oblivious or complacent. We’ve lost some consciousness in that. We move our feet for just what we must, and act mostly as society expects of us to, but we **don’t listen**, or we **listen to the wrong (again, numbing) things**. We’re **surprised** that people would lie to us yet don’t much care that God never would, yet we **don’t much listen**. History is ignored and the past is unlearned from. We’re **shocked** when we get sick or lose our job or become unhappy or (without a reason that we understand) lose relationships.

But if we’ll **learn from history for just a bit**, then know first that people have always been this oblivious or negligent. It took more than dynamite to get even disciples outside of their homes on Easter morning. Peter and John ventured finally, but what got them out was, at least, the rumor of dynamite. Women expected only what they expected and had brought to a grave that morning just what duty had called them to bring in ointments and burial spices. See, **the One who was supposed to be the Messiah had died** … and **what a surprise that was**. **They’d not paid attention to what the Messiah came to have to do … so did**.

**Text**

It took two angels to get the women to **remember history Easter morning: “remember how Jesus had told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day (and THIS is the third day) rise”**. And **then (for this moment of consciousness) “they remembered His Words, and told of these things to the eleven and to all the rest”**.

Last night, we held what’s called an Easter Vigil. We stand “**vigil**” having **tried to listen to what Jesus said about** **what salvation would take**. This death then resurrection was told followers for 3 years, and God had always been good on His word. Our last night vigil was remembering Jesus’ words that He’d not just die (and have to) but that He’d rise on the third day (death not able to hold Him as the Heavenly Father raises His flesh with, in His case, no decay). Believers (in every way that it’s physically possible) **stand watch** at the tomb that Jesus’ body was buried in after His crucifixion to, then, **watch Him rise as He’d said**. Only Roman guards saw it then, but why’d the **disciples and following women skip that vigil?** Would any of **us** after He forecasted it so specifically? Would **we** have been listening to Him or just walking around in His proximity but not really **paying attention to what He said?**

Well, last night our vigil delivered the **first announcement that “He is risen, just as He’d said”**. After readings about how true-to-His-Word He’d always been throughout history, paying attention to His Word on this would have gotten **us** out for an “all-nighter” if necessary. This morning, we hear angels getting our attention: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? Jesus is not here in the grave you saw Him put into. He has risen. **Remember** **how He told you**, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and, then, on the third day rise …

then “**they** remembered His words, and returning from the tomb **told all these things** to the eleven and to all the rest.”

## Application

There is a very public speaking clinical phycologist from Canada who’s (often provocatively) on youtube or in interviews or lectures talking about **reality with the wisdom of “sense” (as, I think, he’d put it)**. Jordan Peterson (and, maybe, some of you have heard of him, or heard from him on topics including Scripture and the Biblical “myths” as he **used** to call them). One was this **resurrection of Jesus the Christ**. For the longest of time he’d call himself a **skeptic in a lot of ways**, **following along** the Christianity thing but not, really, **taking Jesus at His Words**, skipping that part about real **salvation from sins confessed** by the **(absolutely necessary) death** of God’s divine Son to pay for that (them) then **live raised** granting a Good resurrection to **anyone else** who’d receive that full Passion as **for, even, them**. Peterson’s words on the subject (previously) that he wasn’t prepared to give himself over to calling Christ’s resurrection “truth” because (if he did that) **EVERYTHING WOULD CHANGE … it’d HAVE TO**.

My understanding is that Jordan Peterson **has given himself over to acknowledging that “truth”**, and it has **CHANGED EVERYTHING** whether or not you can **see it clearly enough in what you see of him** **…** **faith in that for his sins HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING**.

I hope **you’re** **listening to Jesus**, and not just **on His outskirts**. The apostle Paul said about the same thing as Jordan Peterson did regarding Easter in 1st Corinthians 15. “If in **this life only** we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But **in fact Christ has been raised from the dead**, the **firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep**. For a by a man came death, **by a man** **has come also the resurrection of the dead**. For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ** shall **all be made alive**. But each in his own order: **Christ first” (that’s Easter and we’re celebrating the reality of that)**, **then at His coming those who belong to Christ**.”

That **new and Good resurrection because of Christ’s** is something we **can** have to look forward to. With **that** **(accurately secured as we “belong to Christ”)**,even Mondays through Saturdays of any week are **re-made** … along with, of course, Sundays (all of them).

He **is risen!** He **is risen indeed! Alleluia!** In +Jesus’ name. Amen.