

“Holy Now...Finding Joy In The Journey”

“Holy Now...God Wholly Holy Present”

The Gospel of Thomas Sayings #77, #25, #90; Matthew 28:1-10
April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

We do know how to live “as if”... “even though”...

We are no longer unknowing bystanders...
and yes, we need some skills...
if we only will! Insight plus skills = power!

Given what we know in how the story is told...what’s key in all of this?
What does it mean to be resurrected?

To embrace our own humanity? To honor our humanity?
To “live” what we believe?

What’s key to living in the New Realm as Eastered People?

“Never allow anyone to be humiliated in your presence.” Elie Wiesel

**Jesus said: “Love your brother or sister like your soul.
Guard each of them like the pupil of your eye.”**

Never allow anyone to be humiliated in your presence.
It sounds so simple. But how often has each of us done just that?

A co-worker is publicly berated and you sit silently, relieved that you aren’t the one on the hot seat. Easter undone.

A colleague shares an inappropriate joke or insinuation and you don’t speak up because you don’t want to start something or be seen as a goody-two shoes. Easter undone.

A valuable customer makes a rude, insulting remark and you don’t call them on it — can’t risk losing the account.

...a mother raging at her children in the grocery market, two on the street reacting, dinner and the family conversation fraught with prejudice and projections, a controversy at church.

Easter undone and Jesus remains on the cross...each time our hearts make no room for Him to enter in...to come on down.

We all can think of times when we watched silently as someone else was publicly mistreated.

Wiesel witnessed some of the most horrendous abuse the world has ever known. And out of that darkness emerged wisdom that helps us navigate the complexities of the 21st century company.

Never allow anyone to be humiliated in your presence.

Don't make this harder than it has to be. And...

If you need skills, get them...knowing...

this is not about judging others or choosing sides!

It's about interrupting harm.

It's about restoring dignity...to all parties.

It's about non-violent resistant to daily injustices.

And thing is: It's **not** that we don't care, it's that we don't know how to respond and so we react by not acting.

But our silence speaks much!

Christianity is not a set of ideas or doctrine to celebrate in worship.

Christianity is a spiritual practicum, a chosen behavior...
our daily actions.

**Christianity is about being in the Holy Now
showing up in life to walk in the ways of Christ.
Christ by our side...there is a joy in the journey...
because stepping up to justice brings peace...
hard situations and all!**

Jesus meets us in our Galilee.

That's where we will see Him...in the grocery store,
on the street, around the dinner table with Uncle Joe,
right here at church.

He tells us do not be afraid, for He is with us to the end of the age. Do you believe this?
Is resurrection real?

We know the story of resurrection is His story but not history...
it points to something much bigger.

The Bible's Resurrection story is a **truth** story...

more than an individual's resurrection.
We rise in mass...alive!

Resurrection is the story of the many who rise up as we embrace
the fullness of our own humanity and choose the ways of justice ...showing up for all of
humanity.

Christians witness to what is truly powerful in life...
showing up in the moment.

Our call as Christians, as Easter people is...
to practice involvement, kindness, and non-violent passionate resistance in the All and
Everything that is unjust...
that is humiliating in our individual and corporate lives!

Our call as Christians is to be in the **Holy Now**...in awe of the life around us, made
able to resist the ways of the world.

Our call as Christians:

To journey on...showing “all that we are”
...present to those who are counting on us to show up...
those counting on our awareness and presence.

To walk with Jesus in integrity and peace to face... confront...those who are counting
on our being worn down and out

...counting on our human tendency to go to sleep...
to numb, to shut down and tune out, to go away,
to give in or give up,
to say “not mine” to deal with.

“Christianity is not about saving people from their sins.

The only one who can save someone is...that one...him or her self!

In Easter Jesus makes it possible for each of us to save ourselves!

There is no such thing as Substitutional Theology.

Jesus didn't substitute himself for you because
you're bad before you're even born!

We don't have a God who needs to be appeased.

Only we can save ourselves from ourselves by putting things
back in the right order...this is what Jesus models.

It's about each of us expanding the sense of what
it means to be human.

What Christianity does is lift us beyond survival mentality
into a kind of humanity that can give itself away in love.

That's what the Jesus story is all about."

(Bishop John Shelby Spong)

Our call as Christians is not to pray our way through life...
for to pray without action is really just wishing...like blowing out the candles on your
birthday cake.

Our call as Christians is not to come to church,
but to go out into the world...to trust the journey...
our call is to keep learning, growing, evolving, becoming.

Easter is

"personal **crucifixion**" moving into a **corporate** resurrection.

It's not that you are saved, it's that we are!

We CAN put things back in the right order!

This means resurrection was not an event...an isolated event which took place once,
two thousand+ years ago and one guy named Jesus is resurrected. And somehow
magically forgives us in the future.

Rather we understand resurrection as a perpetual process refreshing us again and
again, resurrecting

our individual integrity within our corporate humanity.

Corporate Resurrection supports each of us with what it is we now need
most...knowing each has what the other needs.

And, in this, we are freed
from our usual ways of thinking
and the fear that consumes our self-talk.

For we do deeply know:
our truest need is not for personal immortality
(heaven in the future)
but rather our deepest need is for a life before death...
for us, yes, but also for everyone!

(Heaven here and now on earth...as Jesus says!)

This is an embodiment of the deepest understanding that none of us is freer/healthier/wealthier/more secure than the least of us.

(This is biblical!)

And, right now...today, we are experiencing this understanding as never before...in concrete ways:

our health inextricably linked to everyone else's health.

What a great example of being Eastered!
Caring for each other.

When we embrace the resurrection of the many,

we change our mind,

we live our deepest wisdom.

We get those skills we need! Call me!

We take on a passionate non-violent resistance...to a virus,
to arguing, binging, to postponing, denying, conniving, blaming, racism,
conspiracy theories, false dichotomies.

We resist all that challenges
our corporate well-being.

Choose resurrection, journey in the joy of understanding your deepest connection and power.

Choose resurrection in **Holy Now** moments of each day...
knowing even as Eastered people:

*we do expect problems!

*we accept fear as part of growth!

*we manage our fear...of failure and success

*we get the skills our faith demands of us

*we are confident we are not alone and we

find our courage to go and be in all the right places,
even in the hardest of places and times...
in solidarity with one another!

**Jesus said: "Come to me, for my yoke is easy
and my lordship is gentle.**

And you will find rest for yourselves.”

We Easter People have come for times such as these!

And now is the time...it is the only time.

This is a **Holy Now!**

And living out our integrity, we shall know a peace of mind

as we answer the call of the moment.

It shall be our rest.

This is corporate and/but it begins with you.

Imagine the realm you want to live in...and take it one step farther
...just one!

Think of a time when you did respond in a Holy Moment of integrity.
A time you saw a humiliation and went toward it rather than avoid it.

Remember how that Easter moment of Holy Now
felt and how it touched your soul...

Complete sentence:

Living in the Holy Now, I find Easter joy in the journey when I...