

(S452a)

EASTER 1993

What kind of talk can make the Resurrection of Christ Real?
 Better you should listen to music (than to sermons
 Or plant a seed and watch it grow)?
 Conjure up the image of Mary Running - running
 to tell the others she had seen the Lord.

It seems to me the only use for Easter preaching
 is to search for insight into how those first
 believers understood the resurrection. The closer
 we get to what it meant to them, the more
 likely it is their witness will get to us. Talk
 can help in the discernment of meanings.

The hope of Easter preaching is that insight
 into the meaning of the Resurrection will work
 resurrection faith in us. As its penetrating meaning
 comes clear to us we will find ourselves believing it.

As those first believers reflected on the meaning of
 Christ's resurrection it seems that a couple of verses
 from the Hebrew scriptures stood out. —

Psalms 118: 22-23

The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone

This is the Lord's doing

and marvelous in our eyes.

These verses were heard as parallel statement to

This Jesus whom you crucified - God raised up

If we're having trouble believing the resurrection
 there may be a very reason.

There is something in the heart of the message we don't want
 to hear -
 We are rejecting something at the core of the meaning
 of the resurrection

Another expression of the meaning of the Resurrection to those first believers was that it had to do with their dying and rising. Life in Christ was a dying & rising. That's what it was to believe in Jesus Christ — it was to die & rise with him.

Could this be the stone we are stumbling over? Could this be the reason we don't know the power of the resurrection faith? — that we reject dying — we don't want to die?

* Resurrection Faith is sometimes described as the abundant life!

A central reason we don't live life to the full is that we ~~are~~ ^{are} the time trying to escape dying —

hoping to use all the time — large & small matters postpone unduly —

with a bigger
wonder better
commemorate the occasion

ideal and
practical
actual

Potential: for ever —

reject life — choose death.

undecided to keep life ~~off~~ — we choose death

Resurrection Faith is saying

way to live life abundantly —
accept death.

aside / as with the NT notion of eternal life is NT.
NT notion of Dying & Rising refers to the here & now
as well as to after-life

Life in Christ - as a dying & rising happens to us all the time

* Another stumbling block to our knowing the power of the resurrection is that we don't like to give up on our own righteousness,

a lot of our resistance at this point is rightly placed. It is wrong to give up on righteousness.

Every behavior will do -

There is really no good & evil

thinking makes it so

If we give up like that, we'll destroy the earth and each other.

But equally - we will destroy the earth by all of us rushing about zealously exerting a righteousness of our own. Look upon our own time & what is causing greater havoc than the clashes between camps of righteousness

The thing all our righteousness most needs is forgiveness.

To live by the forgiveness of God is a kind of dying - The reason at the heart of our not knowing the liberating power of God's grace is our rejection of dying.

* Reflect on one more component - meaning of Resurrection

if God raised up crucified one
regaled one head coronation

another way of putting that means

GOD IS LOVE

again

(452d)

Sermon

4

The reason we have trouble believing that
is that loving is a kind of dying.

If you let yourself love —
give up being in charge & your ego
you let someone — someone matter ultimately
that you cannot manage.

According to the Resurrection Faith,
if you love — you've lost nothing
& gained something

Think of the worst situation you have ever been in
deprivation
exclusion
rejection
and in

Threatening to befall you

IS THERE ROOM IN IT TO LOVE?

you've got life's greatest treasure
you've got the power of great Truth

I can never reflect on this notion —

total recall — intense woman alcohol —

"Jack when I am on the verge of believing that —
— I PANIC!"

— so do we all, before the WORD GOD IS LOVE

That's why those early believers in the
resurrection found in the Hebrew Scriptures — the
insight that the sinners of the world must
die to rise again

Saving never in that —
no amount of our rejection
can keep Christ Dead

This Jesus whom you crucified
He rose up

It is the case

You and I are not up to The Resurrection Faith.

It is GOD's doing.

And marvellous in our eyes.