

Easter - April 5, 2015

We know the story. On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey in a humble parade, presenting his Kingdom Movement to the people and the authorities.

He came with “the hope, peace, joy, love and Wisdom of God’s New Day” so he let go of any semblance of self-serving spectacle and fully embraced the beauty of humility.

He went to the Temple each day to teach the way of God’s New Day.

Jesus held back nothing: Risked everything: Even his own life in the cause of winning the nation to discipleship in God’s New Day.

He created a situation where the leaders could not sit on the fence.

Will they choose the power of spectacle or the beauty of humility?

Will they get caught up in judgement or embrace the Wisdom of God in his teaching and the compassion of God in his healings. The leaders will either become his disciples or his executioners.

On Thursday evening, Jesus shared a meal, set an example of service and gave a new commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Later that evening, he struggled with competing wills, a painful handing over and fleeing friends.

Overnight he went from freedom to bondage, from doing to being done to, from action to passion.

On Friday, Jesus was handed over unto death, and his life was poured out for the sake of others. He gave all that was his to give to make disciples for God’s New Day.

Today we enter into the mystery of his passion, his allowing love that becomes resurrection living in our lives.

Now it is more than just interesting that in Mark’s gospel, the resurrection is revealed long before any of Jesus’ followers recognize it.

The Roman officer standing in front of the cross gets the first glimpse of resurrection on Good Friday just as Jesus dies.

Jesus’ passion of allowing love in its tragic beauty becomes the radiance of resurrection before the eyes of the enemy officer. He sees the tragic beauty of allowing love transformed into an unexpected radiance and says in amazement, “This man really was the Son of God.”

Friends, we know those moments when the tragic beauty of allowing love has come calling in our lives.

We all have had our Good Friday moments. We know the cost of compassion and yet, we also know the resurrection radiance that can result when we stay the course.

So, Mark tells us that the followers have to go back to Galilee, back to their everyday lives to experience the radiance of Resurrection.

Just like us, they have to go back to their ordinary lives for the tragic beauty of allowing love to become the radiance of resurrection.

They come to know as we also know that Easter has to be experienced in our daily living to become a radiant reality in our life. That is why Sunday worship as witness to resurrection is so important each week. The sense of living Presence we experience, as we worship, builds up our radiance.

And we can share this empowering radiance by allowing God’s New Day to shine through us.

Now, let me be clear here, Resurrection just doesn't follow the rules. It's like love. Love always seems to be breaking the rules of what's right in favour of what helps.

Resurrection happens as we allow God's gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Wisdom, Humility and Beauty to be transformed in us as they rise up within and overflow to others.

Resurrection radiance arises from the allowing love of the Passion. It's the transformation of the tragic beauty of allowing love into resurrection radiance. It's a sun rise in the soul.

Application for Today

This Easter, what tragic beauty in your life will you allow to be transformed into resurrection radiance?