

March 27, 2016

Easter

It's good to be here!

It's good to gather with the faithful on Easter morning!

It is good to open our hearts to the hope and joy Easter offers.

But come to think of it, none of **Jesus'** original disciples and follower expected Easter morning to be such a good experience. With their hopes dashed, none of them expected to experience the joy of Easter! So let's go back a bit and review the process.

On Palm Sunday, **Jesus** entered Jerusalem in a joyful parade to invite the citizens of the city to join his Kingdom Movement. He went to the Temple each day to teach and display the way of **God's uncontrolling love**.

By Friday, **Jesus** was handed over unto death, and his life was poured out for the sake of revealing **God's** uncontrolling love. He gave all that was his to give to make disciples for **God's** New Day. His allowing love forgave to the very end.

By Saturday, **Jesus** was dead and hastily buried. The kingdom movement was over. **God's New Day** was never going to dawn. **God's** uncontrolling love was already forgotten. Hopes and dreams were dashed. The old ways of thinking quickly took over in the Disciples minds

But, then, Sunday, unexpectedly Resurrection!!

Easter is the **BUT**, that changes everything.

Easter is the **BUT**, that changes regular expectations into a redeeming experience.

Easter is the **BUT**, that transforms the finality of **Good Friday** into an unexpected **new beginning**. **Jesus** now lives in their hearts

Let's go back to the Gospel story with all its **BUTs**.

According to the scriptures the old way of thinking sets in after **Good Friday**.

The women observe the Sabbath according to the commandments. They go about their sad business as they set out for the tomb early on the first day of the workweek.

BUT then the unexpected!

They are acting appropriately as they bring the spices, expecting to find a dead body.

BUT then the empty tomb!

They are caught up in fear and trembling.

BUT then the good news!

The disciples as usual dismiss the women's message.

BUT then Peter gets up and runs to the tomb.

Their attitudes are on automatic pilot.

BUT then the experience of resurrection!

It takes the **BUT** of Easter for the followers of **Jesus** to grasp the new beginning of **God's** uncontrolling love.

Now what about us?

What unexpected acts of kindness or forgiveness have stopped you in your tracks?

What unexpected encounters with uncontrolling love have turned business as usual into a whole new ball game?

Maybe it was only for a moment, **BUT** you glimpse the unity of all life.

Maybe it was in the midst of a busy day, **BUT** you experience the connecting, *uncontrolling* nature of **God's** love.

Maybe it was an unexpected gesture of inclusion or acceptance **BUT** it was exactly what you needed.

In these resurrection moments, these encounters with the living Christ, we let go of the past and find a space opening up in our heart for *new beginnings*. And in a flash that new space is filled with **a unifying, uncontrolling love**.

We know in a heartbeat that we will *suffer* for this *love*, we will empty out our own self-serving agendas, we will give up control in favour of **God's** guidance.

We know in a heartbeat we will let go of violent reactions and embrace *selfless suffering*. We too are on our way to resurrection. The living Christ is finding a home in our hearts.

In time we learn to accept life for what it is. We *allow* contradictions and paradoxes to have a place. We discover a new non-judgmental approach to life and

relationships. We participate in **God's uncontrolling love** where we find new *freedom* again and again. We experience resurrection living.

Easter morning proclaims such experiences, celebrates such experiences.

The Application for Easter

The Easter experience is a positive feedback loop

Easter happens in us, as we offer its new life to others.