

From TO-DO to TA-DA

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:5 and Matthew 28:1 – 10

4/17/22

Easter Sunday

Happy Easter! Happy Easter!

I will never forget the day the eye doctor told me I needed glasses. For years, I cheated on my school eye exam. When my teacher would send us by rows to the nurse's office to get an eye exam, I would always make sure I was the last in line and while waiting for my turn to be examined, I would memorize the last two lines of the eye chart so when my turn came up I could rattle off the eye chart. If the eye chart had 'E's, I would say up-down-right-left or if the eye chart had letters, I would say A-E-D-F. I hope you get the idea?

Yet through my years in junior high school, it started to become clear that I needed glasses! I need assistance to see and read! In 9th grade I got glasses!

It is a significant moment that required a serious adjustment. I had to change my routines and embrace a new normal. Years later I admit that I was not doing myself any good cheating on eye exams. I now embrace wearing glasses because I can see!

Engaging in our journey with Christ, it can be like being prescribed new glasses. Crucifixion and resurrection can cause us to see life in a whole new way.

Before Christ, life can look natural, material, and temporary. What you see is what you get! But when we engage with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, life begins to look less natural and more spiritual, less material and more immaterial, and less temporary and more eternal!

Our spiritual lenses enable us to see what the world cannot see. Our spiritual lenses will allow us to pursue an eternal goal that is beyond anything we have experienced.

However, we are not always good seeing through spiritual eyes. When challenges arise, it is easy to focus on what we see and forget the value of what is unseen. When a person lies and shows hatred on person different than us, it is easy to be taken in and we become people who do not look like Christ. Our vision is for our own good and not for the good of others. We lose sight of Jesus, our Savior full of love and compassion and peace.

But through the suffering of Christ, God invites us to put on our spiritual glasses again and see what must be seen. We must see Jesus crucified so that we can see our trials as temporary. We must see Christ buried so that we can see the truth about closed doors. And by God's grace, we must see our Savior resurrected so that we will see the promises that awaits us in eternal life.

Let us put on our spiritual glasses on this Easter Sunday and see Christ's resurrection!

Our Lenten journey has ended. Our Lenten journey did not end at the cross like the Pharisees, Sadducees, religious leaders, and Political leaders of Jesus' day thought. But our Lenten journey ends at an empty tomb. Did you hear that - our Lenten journey ends at an empty tomb, emptied from the inside out.

There is no need to fear life or death, the tomb is empty. There is no need to fear anything, the tomb is empty. All we need to do is to go and tell others about the empty tomb and Christ's resurrection. And when you do that you will hear people saying what they said in Jesus' day - Oh, the tomb is empty because Jesus' disciples carried his body away or Oh, the tomb is empty because Jesus did not really die on the cross he was just in a coma.

Our journey of Lent brings us to an empty tomb. The women in our scripture passage from the Gospel of Matthew hurried away from the empty tomb afraid yet filled with joy. What a contrast in words - afraid yet filled with joy. Afraid and joy usually do not go together. Fear is not usually accompanied with joy. Fear is usually accompanied by stress & anxiety. But the women in our scripture text left the empty tomb with fear filled with joy.

We must go like the women did to the tomb. We must go like the women did and tell our family & friends about the empty tomb. We must go 'afraid yet filled with joy'. This is really an interesting detail and a very promising one. We like the women at the tomb, must continue to do our task in life - share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We must continue to be 'afraid yet filled with joy.'

The resurrection does not take our concerns and fears away, but rather the resurrection empowers us to deal with our fears because the Lord is with us. The empty tomb does not take our concerns and fears away, but rather the empty tomb empowers us to deal with our fears because the Living Lord is with us.

For us, we know that the tomb is empty and knowing why it is empty should not make us afraid - it should give us great joy because our fear of life & death is over.

A story, on Easter Sunday at some church a little girl ask the Pastor during his children message - 'What did Jesus say when he rose from the tomb?' The Pastor being a wise man threw the question back to the little girl by saying - 'What do you think Jesus said when he rose from the tomb?' The little girl stood up and stretched her arms out and said - 'TA-DA!'

We often spend too much time on our own to-do list and we miss out on the Ta-Da of Easter. On this Easter Sunday let us focus on the Ta-Da of Easter. Let us be filled with joy because Jesus Christ, Our Lord & Savior, left the tomb empty with a great Ta-Da! Let us go from the to-do to Ta-Da. Let us focus on the Ta-Da of Easter. We need to celebrate and enjoy the emptiness of the tomb. We need to say on this glorious day - Ta-Da! Let us open our arms wide and shout to everyone who can hear us - Ta-Da, the tomb is empty. Let us give thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We may live in fear of our to-does, but let us today take joy in the Ta-Da of Easter.

Alleluia - the tomb is empty!

(Stand in front of church with arms wide and say) TA-DA!

Let us pray:

Lord, help us to see what must be seen. Keep us from being blinded by the things that are temporary and let us open our hearts to receive the eternal. We want to see you clearly. Let us see with our spiritual glasses.

Thank you Jesus for your great TA-DA. Thank for Easter the center of our faith. Thank you even in the midst of our to-does, you fill us with great joy with your TA-DA.

In the name of our Risen Savior - Jesus Christ. AMEN.