THE FEAST FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Rev. Carl F. Thrun
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Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

IN NOMINE JESU

St. Matthew 28: 8 - 10: SO THEY DEPARTED QUICKLY FROM THE TOMB WITH FEAR AND GREAT JOY, AND RAN TO TELL HIS DISCIPLES. AND BEHOLD JESUS MET THEM AND SAID, "HAIL!" AND THEY CAME UP AND TOOK HOLD OF HIS FEET AND WORSHIPED HIM. THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID; GO AND TELL MY BRETHREN TO GO TO GALILEE, AND THERE THEY WILL SEE ME.

Psalm 118: 21 - 24: I THANK THEE THAT THOU HAST ANSWERED ME AND HAST BECOME MY SALVATION.
THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER.
THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING:
IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES.
THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

I bring you the GREETING of the RISEN CHRIST - - - the SAME GREETING He gave to the TWO MARYS on that HECTIC, HAPPY DAY called EASTER:: "HAIL!" If we were to translate His GREETING to them into MODERN TERMS, we would hear Him say to us: "GOOD MORNING!"

EASTER makes EVERY morning a "GOOD MORNING!" EASTER'S OPEN TOMB is an OPEN-ENDED INVITATION to SHOUT for JOY! "I THANK THEE!" The orginal Hebrew has a little more ZEST to it. It is more like; "I PRAISE THEE THAT THOU HAS ANSWERED ME AND HAST BECOME MY SALVATION. THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER. THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING; IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES. THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT."

When Jesus said "GOOD MORNING" to the WOMEN - - - - - they RAN to HIM - HELD HIM BY THE FEET - AND WORSHIPED HIM. And I hope YOU do the SAME.

One thing more. After He GREETED them with His "GOOD MORNING" - - - - He gave them SOMETHING TO DO so that His GREETING would MEAN something to OTHERS. He asks the same of YOU and of ME.

"GOOD MORNING!" "What's GOOD about it?" - - - - - - I can hear some of you muttering, SCREAMING, or COMPLAINING!

"What's good about it?" ask the flood victims in Milwaukee, Rockford, St. Louis, & New Orleans?

"What's GOOD about it?" asks a MOTHER and FATHER who are WORRIED SICK about their DAUGHTER who is HIGH on DRUGS and becoming a PROSTITUTE in the process - - or the WIFE who called me a few weeks ago to say that her MARRIAGE is OVER and that she has called her LAWYER - - - - or the MAN who LOST HIS JOB and is finding how OLD it is to be OVER FORTY!

"What's GOOD about it?" - - - is what the PARENTS must be saying who have just BURIED their two TEENAGE ~~CHILDREN~~ sons.

"What's GOOD about this morning?" - - - asks the WOMAN in the HOSPITAL who has CANCER - - - - or the STUDENT whose parents do not even CARE if he comes HOME for EASTER or EVER for that matter!

It is NOTHING NEW to Jesus to hear His FOLLOWERS SPILL OUT and SPELL OUT their HEARTACHE, their FEARS, and their LONELINESS. He REMEMBERS TOO WELL a WALK He took on that FIRST EASTER AFTERNOON with two SORROWING DISCIPLES.

When Jesus says, "GOOD MORNING" to YOU - - - - He asks YOU and ALL who call Him LORD to HANG ON to HIM and to WORSHIP HIM as the LIVING, LOVING CHRIST!

"Let me TELL YOU what MY RESURRECTION MEANS TO YOU," He says. "I WAS DELIVERED INTO DEATH FOR YOUR OFFENSES - - - and RAISED AGAIN FOR YOUR JUSTIFACATION TODAY YOU DO NOT NEED TO ~~GAUGE~~ engage IN SELF-VINDICATION - OR TO TRY TO MAKE YOURSELF RIGHT WITH GOD! YOU COULD NOT EVEN BEGIN TO APPEASE or get right THE HOLY GOD! BUT I HAVE TAKEN ON MYSELF ALL YOUR SINS - ALL YOUR GUILT - ALL YOUR PUNISHMENT - ALL YOUR DEATH - ALL YOUR HELL! IT ALL LIES BURRIED IN MY GRAVE! THEREFORE, YOU ARE FREE TO LIVE THIS MORNING - AND ALL THIS DAY -

AS A PERFECTLY FREE SERVANT OF ALL - SUBJECT TO ALL - AND PERFECTLY FREE LORD OF ALL - SUBJECT TO NONE! YOU ARE FREE!"

You ask, "What's GOOD about this morning?" "Let me TELL you," says Jesus, "NOTHING NOW CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF GOD. I HAVE ROBBED DEATH OF IT'S STING ---- AND YOU CAN "THANK GOD" FOR A VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD! I AM AS CLOSE TO YOU AS YOUR NEXT BREATH. I HAVE A LIVING HEART TO LOVE YOU ---A LIVING EYE TO SEE YOUR NEEDS ---A LIVING HAND TO HELP YOU! GOOD MORNING!"

"JUST BELIEVE ME," is ALL that HE ASKS. "MY PROMISES ARE SURE. I ABIDE FAITHFUL - I CANNOT DENY MYSELF! MY RESURRECTION IS GOD'S 'YEA AND AMEN' TO ALL I SAID I WOULD EVER DO FOR YOU AND MEAN TO YOU! SO HANG ON IN THERE! HANG ON TO ME! GOOD MORNING! "

When Jesus says, "GOOD MORNING," ---He calls you to WORSHIP - to WITNESS - and to SERVE!

Let us get this CLEAR once and for all! Jesus' GREETING of GRACE is an INVITATION to KNEEL DOWN and to ADORE HIM - to SIT and LISTEN so that you may RISE UP and SERVE - to CREATE enough WHITE SPACE on every PAGE of your DAY so that you do NOT LOSE the POWER of HIS PRESENCE in the CLUTTER of your BUSYNESS! There is a time and a PLACE for "SHARING TIMES" in SCHOOL - - and CHILDREN LOVE these moments. But the CHILDREN of GOD ALSO NEED "SIT DOWN and SHUT UP and LISTEN TIME" - - to HEAR Him say: "PEACE BE UNTO YOU!"

It is a "GOOD MORNING" whenever we can GO and TELL the GREAT THINGS God has DONE for us! "TELL THE DISCIPLES NOT TO BE AFRAID - AND TO CONFESS BY WORD AND DEED: ' I PRAISE THEE - I THANK THEE THAT THOU HAS ANSWERED ME AND HAS BECOME MY SALVATION. THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER. THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING; IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES. THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT." TELL the DISCIPLES that their SORROW has been TURNED into JOY! TELL the WHOLE CREATION in its GROANING and LONGING for REDEMPTION: "YOUR REDEMPTION IS COMING - - - THE LORD IS AT HAND!" You must come to EACH DAY with your EYES ALWAYS on the LOOKOUT for the LIVING CHRIST. Then you will ALWAYS FIND WORK to

DO - whenever you SEE HIM! You will see Him IN HIS ALIVE CHURCH - in HIS BODY - the FULLNESS of HIM who fills ALL IN ALL!

You will SEE HIM in the LIVES of every BROTHER and SISTER in the HUMAN FAMILY. He has SENT YOU on a MISSION of HAPPINESS and REJOICING in HIS MERCY ---- by SHOWING YOU MERCY! He GIVES YOU and HE GIVES ME so MANY CHANCES every day to make His " GOOD MORNING " COME ALIVE in the LIVES of the SICK - the HUNGR - the IMPRISONED - the LONELY - the DOWNCAST - and the DYING. TODAY - and EVERYDAY we can truly say: "WE HAVE SEEN THE CHRIST!"

"GOOD MORNING!" ---- and PEACE and POWER be unto YOU! Amen!!!