

“Resurrection and the ‘Right-Here-&-Right-Now”

Easter 2018

April 1, 2018

“Easter” = the Death, Burial, & Resurrection of the Christ

Easter ...is the Great Culmination, the Crescendo of the human symphony, the Summit at the top of human existence.

...It is the BIGGEST News that Could Ever Be Heard or Processed by Humans! ...It proclaims: (1) There is Life Beyond This Life (2) There is a Way to be Reconciled (Restored) to the God who Created Us!!

INTRO... We are disciplined by an Immanent Age that has gone Blind to all things Transcendent

*The emergence of the secular is also bound up with the production of a new option— a way of constructing meaning and significance without any reference to the divine or transcendence. (a vision of life in which anything beyond the immanent is eclipsed— p.18). ... So it wasn't enough for us to stop believing in the gods; we also had to be able to imagine significance within an immanent frame, to imagine modes of meaning that did not depend on transcendence.” Smith, James K. A.. *How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* (pp. 23, 26-27). Kindle Edition.*

“...Charles Taylor writes, ‘many people are happy living for goals which are purely immanent; they live in a way that takes no account of the transcendent.’ Jen Pollock Michel, “Our Secular Age”, p. 117

“...we could ask whether people recognize something beyond or transcendent to their lives. ...Every person and every society, lives life with or by some conception(s) of what human flourishing is: what constitutes a fulfilled life? What makes life really worth living? What would we most admire people for? We can't help asking these and related questions in our lives. And our struggles to answer them define the view or views that we try to live by...” Charles Taylor, “A Secular Age”, p. 16

Easter is a Celebration of the Transcendent! ...the NOT 'Right-Here-&-Right-Now'!! ...An Invisible God has Made us RIGHT with Him! ...The Resurrection means there's Life After Death!! —But, maybe that stuff seems Too Far Away to be Very Relevant to Daily Life!

Lessons from a few who Hoped in the 'Right-Here-&-Right-Now'

...Jesus interaction with the Man Throwing a Banquet

...Jesus interaction with the man in hell w/ 5 brothers

...Jesus interaction with Martha & Mary

Luke 14:12-14 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Jesus Giant Question: *Are Your Actions, Motivations, and Reasons in Daily Life Informed and Influenced by the Resurrection? ...Or are they merely about what I can get out of this 'Right-Here-&-Right-Now'?*

- **v. 12** ...Don't live life and make decisions and be motivated by a mere 'Right-Here-&-Right-Now' mindset—only doing things that you can foresee a personal, immediate reward & return on your actions!
 - ***Imagine how different our Relationship Investments ...our Time Investments ...our Financial Investments would be—if we were thinking more Transcendently (more influenced by the Resurrection that's coming!)***
 - ***Imagine the Freedom this creates in us!! ...to not be controlled by 'well what's in it for me, that will show up in the foreseeable future!'***

- **v. 13-14** ...Take actions that anticipate transcendent returns that will be delayed but will be yours in the Realm of the Resurrection!

Matt 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 16:19-31 ...the story of a Man & 5 Brothers who lived their lives for Immanent Things—while storing up great Transcendent Regret!

- **v. 19** ...*The Abundant Life of Immanence!*—the finest clothing & fanciest feasts!
 - Jesus would illustrate this concern multiple times over:
 - The Rich Young Ruler
 - The abundant farmer who Built Bigger Barns
- **v. 27ff** ...*The Power of Personal Appeal vs God's Word* (that was Ignored All Those 'Immanent Years')

John 11:17-25 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

- *Less REBUKE and More Comforting Perspective Offered*
- ...“**yea, yea, we know there’ll be a resurrection** at the end of time— but what about right here and right now!”
- BUT... *tucked away in this story is an awareness of how Weighty Our Immanent Human Existence can be—*
 - **GRIEF** *has a blinding impact on their Faith in the Transcendence of God’s plan*
 - **Fear of the Future** *has a blinding impact on the Transcendence of God’s Plan!*
- *Jesus Comforts Them with “An IMPORTED PERSPECTIVE” ...*
 - **“I am the God of Resurrection ...and I am With You Ladies Always!”** ...Do Not Be Afraid!

Jesus Expected that a Faith, Trust, and Hope in the Resurrection would SHAPE the ‘Right-Here-&-Right-Now’

1 Cor 15:13-19 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Cor 15:32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

The Creed ... “I believe in the resurrection of the dead”

...Yea, yea—but does it affect your life more than the EASTER BUNNY??

"If the dead are not raised, then why not live it up? Why not go for all the gusto we can? Why bother going to church? Why suffer for Christ if this life is all there is? Why serve the Lord if death ends everything?" Ray Pritchard, "Creedo", p. 190

Easter Isn't a Seasonal Celebration—It is an Everyday Awareness...

...It shapes the Wealthy & Indulgent ...It Shapes the Selfish & Territorial

...It Shapes the Fearful & Grieving!