

# “a dawning realization”

(For those of you who dutifully read the newsletter, this is essentially my cover article for May. Or, the May article was the developed thought of Easter, Easter 2 and Easter 3.)

It is the freshness of Spring. It is the joy of life. It is the victory over death. It is our journey of celebration in Eastertide.

But like any party in life, there is more to it than just a party. Our celebration is our human reaction. But what has set our celebration in motion? “The resurrection of our Lord”, you say. To which I reply, “He is risen, indeed!” But what is at stake, is the most personal of faith moments. It is not public. It is between you and God. ***If you are going to have a resurrection life you will need to meet or find the Risen Lord.***

## **The Personal Journey**

Each disciple finds the Lord, risen, at their own time, according to what their eyes see and their minds, or hearts come to understand. The accounts of the resurrection appearances are a startling gathering of ***personal*** stories. Each disciple begins with what they know to be true, Jesus is dead. And then each disciple finds whatever element God uses to speak to them. An empty tomb, or being called by name, or an angel, or two, or the breaking of bread, or the body wrappings, or Jesus saying – touch my side.

Before the moment when they understand, they see nothing new: an empty grave (“where have you put him?”), or “are you the gardener?” or “Are you the only stranger who has not heard?”

## **The Journey into Responsibility**

After they understand, they are on their own. Jesus disappears from their sight and the work of faith begins. I think one of the most difficult learnings from the resurrection is that the resurrection means that we now have responsibilities. Before the crucifixion, Jesus would take care of it. He would heal, he would feed, he would call people to new life, he would lead the way (to Jerusalem and death). After the resurrection he has things for ***us*** to do. (And so the angel said, “Go now to Galilee, he is already there.”) We aren’t even out of the graveyard and there is an assignment! They haven’t even seen him or touched him – but they have their next task. But, be clear, it now falls

to you. There are things to do. Let's get on the resurrection road, and get going with God's work.

### **The Resurrection is Your Journey**

Which brings me back to the beginning of this article with new understanding. We often speak of the resurrection as an event. And it was. But to call it an event is misleading. It misdirects our attention to the resurrection as an external fact, and a completed act. Viewing the resurrection in this way denies ***our*** part in it, and its ***ongoing consequences*** for us. The truth of the resurrection is our faith ***relationship***, as we move, recognizing Jesus, and then move into our resurrection work. We are a resurrection people, or else the resurrection is just history. Past. Gone. Done.

I would charge you: the resurrection is now. In you and me. So let's get on with the resurrection journey, our journey, and get going with God's work.

The Journey is Yours!

*Dave*