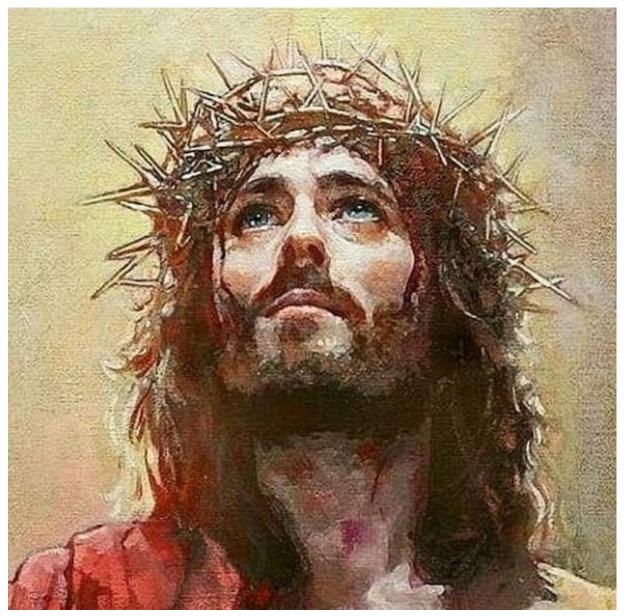


Easter 2022



Lk. 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing".

Lk. 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing".

On Forgiveness

By Do Fox

Forgiveness is the engine That drives My Kingdom's power on earth. It is an act that releases The very power of God Into any, and every situation! I spoke forgiveness on the cross, Giving it to mankind As an example to follow. Without the Father's Divine Forgiveness Mankind would have perished long ago. It is the heartbeat of Heaven, And when offered to one another It ignites light in soul and spirit, My Forgiveness of you, And your forgiveness of one another Reflects the Love Light of the Father. It is the narrow path That leads to Life with Me. Let the Forgiveness released at the cross Wrap itself around your heart and mind And you will be lifted into Heavenly Light, There, you and I mingle, And you come to know Me intimately. This is My Word to you, My child.

Where is Jesus?

By Rev. Dan Endresen

"Why do you seek the living among the dead"?

Where is Jesus?

When I was in seminary this passage of scripture spoke to me often. It had spoken to everyone who attended services in the college chapel because the words of the angel to the women seeking Jesus in this scene were inscribed in a stained-glass window behind the altar at the chapel. "Why do you seek the living among the dead"? I have to admit, as it was not Easter for most of the school year, I contextualized those words to help me through my relevant struggle, having little to no expectation of finding Jesus among those I associated with in chapel. I was more likely to find him while alone in a basement room of the college called "The Lion's Den" and thought that a bit ironic too, as my name is Daniel and the lions would soon come to devour me. But God delivered me, of course. In fact, it was the lions that ended up paying for some of my schooling, my Clinical Pastoral Education, my ministry discernment in Newfoundland, and my vestments. And here I am serving the Lord nearly twenty years later in the same Pointe-Claire community that I began in. But there is a problem. Pointe-Claire is still quite spiritually dead twenty years on. So, I ask, where is the living Jesus in Pointe-Claire and the West Island? Well, where was he found back on the day of his resurrection?



On the day of his resurrection, Jesus drew near to his disciples who were talking about him on their way to Emmaus. At first, they spoke to him along the road and their hearts burned within them as he spoke and opened the scriptures to them, but they didn't recognise him. Only after they constrained him to abide with them, and he went in with them and sat at the table, and took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them, were their eyes opened, and they knew him.

Then they returned to Jerusalem and found the other disciples talking about Jesus – and guess what? Jesus appeared to them.

Where is the living Jesus found in Pointe-Claire and the West Island? He is found with his disciples who speak with one another about him. He is found with those who speak to him even though they do not recognise him. He is found with those whose hearts burn as they hear his spoken word. He is found by those who constrain him to enter their abode and stay with them. He is found by those who receive the blessed and broken bread from him, and share it with their fellow disciples.

Will you talk more about Jesus with disciples of his? Will you speak to Jesus even when you don't recognise him in resurrected power? Will you invite him in to live with you? Will you receive all he gives to you – his body broken for you, and yet risen again to give you life eternally?

Let Us Come to Jesus

By Maria Endresen

The day before the Russian invasion of Ukraine I watched a segment on the news where a foreign journalist was talking to a young Ukrainian couple who had just had a baby. He asked them what they thought was going to happen as the Russian army was moving closer to their border. Looking at their beautiful sleeping newborn they answered with the smile: "we don't think anything bad can happen." In their mind they couldn't imagine that anyone could come and destroy something so precious as an innocent little baby, along with their happiness. People want to ignore evil. One day after that interview an unimaginable happened. President Putin nullified his promise of not attacking and invaded Ukraine with violent force, even against the civilians – little children included.

In the 24th chapter of Matthew ,Jesus speaks of the last days, so that we might not be deceived, but also that we not be alarmed. He said that in the last days nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. Jesus identified that as the beginning of birth pains. The history of mankind is intertwined with violence, famine, and sickness. The first murder in the history happened with the children of Adam and Eve when Cain killed his brother Abel. So that is nothing new. But as nations don't revere and fear God, and people rebel against Him more and more, violence is increasing as well. Satan knows that his time is short, and he is using an evil man to get his way. President Putin is using his army to do horrible things to humankind. It is overwhelming to see destroyed residential buildings, dead bodies, people who are hungry, cold, hiding in the basements. Killing bodies is awful. But what about killing of souls? In Matthew 10:28 Jesus told us not to be afraid of the destruction of our bodies but of the destruction of our souls. He also said because of hardship many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, people will be deceived and because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold. (Matt. 24:10,12.) The apostle Peter tells us in his letter that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1. Pet.5:8). He is after souls. In the light of this truth how powerful and life giving are the words of Jesus in John 10:9-16. "I am the gate..." Jesus came to this world to give us life, to save us from the power of sin, to give us a sonship in God's family and eternal life, to restore our relationship to God and show us the Father. At the last day of the feast Jesus called people to himself in a loud voice, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." Hearing his words some of the people said, "surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee?" People were divided over Jesus. (John 7:37,40, 41, 43). Earlier, some people had even pleaded with Jesus to leave their region and didn't want anything to do with him. (Mk. 5:17). Some took offense at him (Mk.6:3). But there were also people who were amazed, who believed, who bowed down before Jesus and worshiped him and received his promised eternal life. They were saved.

What made the difference? Why did some people believe when others did not? Only God knows the full answer, but I would suggest that the reason was in the attitude of their hearts. The people who couldn't accept Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah because of where he physically came from were using only their human common sense – their intellect to be their guide. People who saw him only as a good teacher or a prophet were slow in heart to believe, like the disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:25). The late Adrian Rogers said: "Faith is a response to an attraction of the heart (the core of man) to the character of God. Faith doesn't ignore the intellect, but neither does it arrive through knowledge alone". In Rom. 10: 10 we read that "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved".

How are people responding to Jesus today in the world? Not too much differently than then. Intellect and science are an obstacle for some. Busyness and cares of this world which lead to tired, unresponsive hearts are an obstacle for others. Jesus is ignored. Like in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot, people are busy eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, marrying and giving to marriage (Luke 11:24). Satisfied with comfort and prosperity nobody has time to hear Jesus calling and become aware of destruction which can come like a flood. That brings me back to the war in Ukraine. I believe that in the wake of this war people are being awakened to a new reality. The pandemic shook us somewhat, but this is yet another wakeup call.

So, what can we do as a church - as the body of Christ in this present situation? We can be involved in humanitarian efforts, sending money or donating supplies. But the governments and the people of the world are doing that already. What we can do, and they can't, is pray. Pray not only for wisdom for world leaders and peace, but more so that the attitudes of hearts would be changed – both ours and theirs – so that people can hear Jesus calling them and believe in their hearts that He is truly the good shepherd, and the gate of salvation, no matter what we go through. Pray that we can stand firm and not be alarmed and not lose faith or have our hearts grow cold. We need to intercede before the Lord so that souls are not stolen, killed, or destroyed. Let us come to Jesus.





Answered Prayer



By Pat Edwards



In the month of October 2021, I began taking medication for high blood pressure and my body started shaking inside. I would be talking, and the vibration would begin. When I drank milk to calm my insides it would continue. During the night it became worse and I'd have to get up and start walking the floor and praying loudly until it subsided. I would be having breakfast and when it started I would leave the table and begin praying. It got so bad that I called 100 Huntley Street and 700 club for prayer and they would be praying and I would be shaking violently while they were praying for me.

I spoke to my sister Susan Weagle about the shaking and sensed it was spiritual. She gave me three pages of scripture verses; one that stood out was Psalm 139 verses 23-24. I asked Father to search me, try me and know my thoughts, revealing anything in me that is not pleasing to Father, that might be giving the evil one a legal right to harass me, especially in the time of trials. That is the process of submitting to God's process. I got on my knees and began praying to God for forgiveness. I fasted and prayed.

The Rev. Charles Stanley's teaching on the Holy Spirit helped me in the journey. The shaking still continued but, not as violently as before, then it eventually stopped. One morning a Huntley Street prayer partner gave this scripture, Isaiah 43 verse 14. When thou passest through the water I will be with thee and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire thou shall not be burned.

Another 700 Hundred Club Prayer Scripture was, **And you shall serve the Lord your God and he shall bless** your bread and water and I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

On Jan 3, 2022, I heard in my spirit, "the Lord is going to restore me, I have to walk and run." I heard the Song, 'Lord, I believe' At the end of the song, 'Lord I believe' by the Maranatha Singers, (John 20:29) Jesus said unto them, " *because thou hast believed, blessed are they that have not seen but yet have BE-LIEVED."*

Worship songs I sang then, are "Lets forget ourselves and worship him" "On Christ the solid Rock I Stand."



Excerpt taken from April 1, 2022, Living Truth Newsletter

By Brett McBride

As we continue to read through Matthew 22-23, what I find so fascinating is how gentle Jesus is when He is questioned by those who are trying to trap and kill him. As sinful humanity tries to outwit the creator of the universe – the one who has formed them in the womb, the one who knows every hair on their head, the one who sustains all things – Jesus patiently displays His grace.

In Matthew 23, Jesus uses strong language to confront them, but it is not to humiliate them. The fact that they would not recognize God coming to them, broke His heart, and He laments over Jerusalem during Holy Week.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks, under her wings, and you were not willing." – Matthew 23:37.

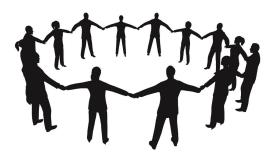
Jesus confronts their sin and hypocrisy, and they respond with rage.

What we eventually see is that on Good Friday, the religious leaders condemn Jesus to death on a cross – and still, even as He breathes His last breath He says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

We learn from the Scriptures that God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to a knowledge of salvation. Even in our world today, Jesus meets each person with compassion and grace, and longs for them to come to a knowledge of who He is.

As we prepare our hearts this Easter, we have the opportunity to remember and reflect on Christ's amazing love for us. because of what he has done for us, we can live completely transformed lives. May the truth of who He is shine in and through us, permeating everything we do personally, and together as His church body.

Submitted by Barrie Fox



True Loveliness

By Do Fox

What is so lovely in God's eyes Can be so often missed, It will involve our hidden self And doesn't need a list.

A list of how to be the best Is fallen man's known way, But what delights the Heart of God Is what He has to say!

He points us to His Love, and says, "His Will will show us how," We only need let go control And seek His Wisdom now.

He holds all moments in His Hands And treasures our delight, We only need to seek His Wil And that will win the fight.



Word Origins

A SHOT OF WHISKEY'

÷

In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents and so did a glass of whiskey.

'THE WHOLE NINE YARDS'

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges.

'BUYING THE FARM'

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000.

This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

'IRON-CLAD CONTRACT'

This came about from the iron-clad ships of the Civil War.

It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE'

Most men in the early west carried a jackknife made by the Buck Knife company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there".

'RIFF-Raft'

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raft – or riff-raff, meaning low class.

'COBWEB'

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob".

SHIPS' 'STATE ROOMS'

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

SLEEP TIGHT'

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a crisscross pattern. A straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

'SHOWBOAT'

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played the small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" these did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention- grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is "showboating".

'OVER A BARREL'

In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in a effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.

BARGE IN'

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. People would say they "barged in".

'HOGWASH'

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

6.

'CURFEW'

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire". It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles before sleeping for the night. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the center of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called-a "curfew".

'BARRELS OF OIL'

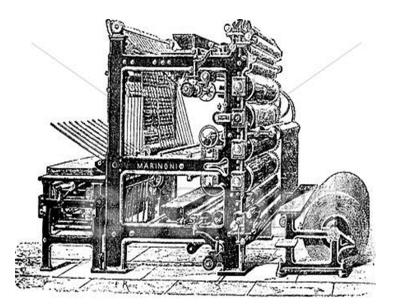
When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid, so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil, rather than gallons.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press, friction causes it to heat up. ...therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press, it's hot. The expression means to get immediate information.

There, don't you feel smarter now?

Submitted by Carolyn White



Punology







Submitted by Barrie Fox

Humour





Medical Term Definition

Artery -- The study of paintings Bacteria — Back door to cafeteria Barium — What doctors do when patients die Benign — What you be, after you be eight Caesarean Section — A neighbourhood in Rome Cat scan — Searching for Kitty Cauterize - Made eye contact with her Colic— A sheep dog Coma— A punctuation mark Dilate— To live long Enema — Not a friend Fester— Quicker than someone else Fibula – A small lie Impotent— Distinguished, well known Labor Pain — Getting hurt at work Medical Staff - A Doctor's cane Morbid - A higher offer Nitrates - Rates of Pay for Working at Night, Normally more money than Days Node - I knew it Outpatient - A person who has fainted Pelvis - Second cousin to Elvis Post Operative - A letter carrier Recovery Room - Place to do upholstery Rectum - Nearly killed him Secretion - Hiding something Seizure - Roman Emperor Tablet - A small table Terminal Illness - Getting sick at the airport Tumor - One plus one more Urine - Opposite of you're out

Just words, but so clever...enjoy!

BEAUTY PARLOUR; A place where women curl up and dye

CHICKENS: the only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: A story you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have... similar to my character lines.

Submitted by Carolyn White.

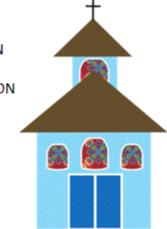


Easter Story Word Search

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PRAYER REDEMPTION REJOICE RESURRECTION RISEN SAVIOR SON THORNS TOMB



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Draw us forth, God of all creation. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter. Amen.

- Author Unknown