

Easter Day 2009

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost +

It was early the morning in the year 1851. Three men had long been struggling to find the elusive ore that would make them wealthy beyond their wildest imagination. Their grub stake was almost depilated. Their hopes and dreams were at an end.

And then they found it. They found gold, in veins of quartz rock and on their claim. They would be rich. They vowed to tell no one. They needed supplies especially dynamite. They would go to town, to get what they needed and return to begin the mining operation. Everything would be secret until they could remove enough gold to hire others to work the mine and protect their claim.

They went to town and after buying their supplies they began to journey back into the hills, but to their dismay many of the town's people began to follow them. As they left the city limits they began to talk with themselves. Did you tell anyone? Who did you tell and you must have told someone? Each replied he had told no one.

And then they turned to face the people of the town who were following them back to their claim. They asked them, "How did you know?" The people of the town answered them, "You have always been a group of unhappy grumpy prospectors, complaining wining and generally being disagreeable to everyone you met, but on this trip you were different. We could tell by the way you acted that something had changed, you must have found gold."

They were changed, changed by the experience of finding what they had been looking for, realizing that they would have what they desired most in the world, to be rich.

It was 37 A.D. and a group of disciples were gathered together hiding from the Roman Authorities and Jewish Leadership. Their leader had been killed. All that they had hoped for prayed for and sought had been shattered in the events of the previous week. It was a week that had begun with such promise. It had ended with their beloved teacher and master dying the horrific death of Crucifixion.

It was the first day of the week, time to begin the process of returning to the normal way of life. For three years they had traveled with Jesus. They had heard His words and seen with their own eyes the miracles. But today it seemed like a dream, an illusion. No one and nothing could change the world, it was just as it was and

they were again the poor working men of Galilee, fisherman, manual laborers and a Tax Collector. It was time to take stock of their lives and return to what had been before.

And then The Resurrection!

Jesus, their teacher, their friend the man they knew and loved experienced the reality of God's Love in a way that human beings had never before experienced. The boundaries of life and death, what was possible and what was not, the nature and reality of time and the human experience all changed in that moment.

Jesus the Christ was raised from the dead, to live and no longer to die. Man had found the real treasure, a treasure that had been present to them since the beginning of time, but man had been unable to find the treasure without God's intervention.

In that moment at the grave, in the upper room, on the shore or walking along to road to Emmaus, those who had known Jesus and loved Him were all transformed. And with them the world!

Let's go back to California in 1851 just for a moment so that we can better understand how the Resurrection changed and transformed all of the Created Order.

The prospectors wanted to protect their claim; they swore each other to secrecy. They planned to go to town and tell no one what they had found. They wanted to possess what they understood to be theirs, they did not want to share or for any one else to benefit from what they had found.

Just human nature we might say!

The experience of the Risen Lord was just the opposite. Those who came to know about the Resurrection either by experiencing the Risen Lord or being told about the Glory of God reveal in this act, are eager to share the truth with everyone who will listen. Human nature itself was changed by the event of Resurrection.

Historians of this age tell us of the growth of the church in these days. How the Apostles and others preached and taught and lived out the Christian Truth so that other could see their witness to the New Life they had been given by God.

For make no mistake, what we celebrate this day is the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the raising up of Him Body, Soul and Spirit perfectly united and in perfect union with God His Father.

And this celebration mean to each of us that we, through Him, are also to be one day raised as Sons of God to live eternally in the Kingdom of God the Father Almighty. We will share in the divine life as God Plan and Will for us has been revealed through His Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, the Lord is Risen

He is risen indeed, Alleluia