

Rejoice & Shine, Bright Star

Mourning to Morning

Relentless Series: Easter Sunday

Holy Week - April 17th, 2022

Rev.Rynn Parraw

Numbers 24:15-19

Psalm 118:14-29

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Luke 24:13-53

Acts 1:1-11

1 Peter 1:1-12

Although the focus of the church is very much on the morning star of Easter sunrise, the way the church orients itself and the way it conducts itself don't seem to match. Or maybe it's that the way that the church conducts itself and the way that society conducts itself are working against each other. You can tell where the focus is based on where the holiday lands. We know that he died on a Friday because they wanted his body down before the Sabbath starts, which is Friday evening sundown. We know he was in the grave for three days, and yet most celebrate his rise less than two days later on Sunday morning.

Legend tells that he died when the veil split at 2 PM on Friday, yet when the women came to tend his grave we were told it is as soon as sunrise after the Sabbath breaks. That would've been Sunday morning, which is not three days later. So either his time in the grave was really only two days but we count the calendar days of Friday, Saturday to Sunday morning, or he did not appear until Monday. It's also why Creeds of the faith word it differently as they reinterpreted the stories over time.

It's hard for us to tell which is which. The stories seem to be consistent with the breaking of the Sabbath which would be Sunday morning. So we must look back at the Hebrew: did it mean three days in the grave or on the third day he rose again?

It's kind of both. To the dead, and to God, time is not linear like it is for us. Sometimes we wonder why people who knew him so well didn't recognize him when they met him at the grave or in the days following. But I can think of a few reasons why it would've been hard to wrap your head around what you were seeing.

The last time he was seen he was bruised, swollen, and dead for those who witnessed it. Then suddenly a few days later, which is too soon for wounds to heal, and too soon for any resolution in your grief, all of a sudden he's standing there in front of you - perfectly well. That alone is enough reason for your mind to play tricks on you as your denial becomes the filter. They still would've been in the denial phase of grief, much less being able to bridge the gap from what they know to what they're seeing.

On top of that he likely actually did not look the same. Once speaking, he can reveal his familiar form, but maybe his true form wasn't exactly the same, as he had shed his humanity. In the case where Mary meets him, when finally he does reveal himself and she recognizes him, she tries to cling to him and he tells her not to touch him because he hasn't ascended yet. In another story, after having seen him on two other occasions before, when he provides breakfast on the shores, we are told that no one dared ask who he was because, in their hearts, they knew. Not that anyone recognized him, except by feeling.

This is indicative of where he is in his journey.

From there Mary runs and tells the others, they turn around and run back to find an empty grave. Sometime later when everyone else is collected back together in the Upper Room where they had shared their Last Supper then he reveals himself. Some of them were already travelling and evangelizing. It likely was not only a few hours later. Even just Mary running back to the boys, then running out to the room, then running back to town, and gathering everybody if they were in the same town already, would've taken up the whole rest of the day. It's a mile or so, done four times, plus rounding up the group. They don't have cars to make long distances and walking to and from is a long enough journey.

So, by the time all of the disciples are gathered - ready and waiting - by the time he infiltrates the locked room ready in bodily form for them to touch him, explore his

wounds as proof, and to share a meal with them, I think it was the following day. That's the official resurrection when he became real again. Which was after three days in the grave.

That would mean in the first appearances out of the grave one of the reasons he wasn't so recognizable was because he was an emanation, not an embodiment. It's like seeing a ghost because he actually is still dead at that point in time but he's preparing them for his return. With the quantum version of time that he would've been experiencing, he can appear to do both simultaneously.

I know for a lot of people this is getting pretty far-fetched, but let's remind you you worship a dead guy who came back to life. Even when he was alive, he was a deity who could heal at a cellular level and knew what other people's minds were doing. His reality is at the more subtle level beneath what we expect, and so it is within the realm of reason as he has stepped into his own divine nature through the initiation of the cross, he is no longer bound by the laws of our nature including space and time.

Thus he could appear in and out of town potentially simultaneously, pop in and out of rooms, and come and go spontaneously over the time he made post-resurrection appearances to his followers, not all of which were in the inner group of 12 apostles.

While his soul is still transiting the grave on the three-day journey, his shadow of the future can be witnessed but not touched. This is why it takes effort for him to be recognized, why he needs to maintain his distance from those who want to embrace him, and why the following day when he showed up in full force his identity was undeniable and his body played by the rules of our world once again, including his wounds. He even ate a meal with them.

Having not yet ascended simultaneously meant that he was still in the grave, and also he had not been reconciled to his father. If it was just that he hadn't reconciled to his father then it wouldn't have made any difference when he met all the disciples in the Upper Room and they could physically touch him. The Bible also says that he was with them, teaching them, walking with them, and giving them the next steps in stages now that he has proved his point for them to believe truly in him and therefore in what he was telling them about themselves. He did that with them for 40 days from the crucifixion until his ascension into heaven.

And so, there are different stages to the journey but his reconciliation with God didn't happen until the grieving period had finished. Hebrew mourning is 40 days and essentially he spent the whole thing available to them, communing with them.

On Friday he descended into hell, on Sunday he told them to gather together, on Monday he joined them after his three-day journey when his battle was complete. He reconciled to himself on the third day and became available again to them. But before that was done he was to show up as the shadow of his own future.

It would seem that he could reveal himself at will. Perhaps that was less shapeshifting, and more installing that knowing and recognition directly into their hearts. I believe this is the prayer for every Christian. To witness him, and carry him as that resolved knowingness.

Yeshua remained in communion with them after the resurrection for as long as was appropriate. After that, it was time for everyone to move on. You can imagine that they really just wanted to stay with him, listening to him. But, his commission was to 'be fruitful and multiply', in a manner of speaking. To go forth and evangelize. To get them to move forward he would have to as well. And so, the whole group of them moved on to the next stage of their ministry together in different directions. Every direction. He has already gone down, so now he goes up.

He promised us the very spirit that animated him would be available to us to inspire our ministries and impact in this world. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit was his parting gift. It wasn't meant to replace him, but to fill the gap between who we were and who we are meant to be.

The Holy Spirit is the very thing that delivers direct revelations, manifests God's will, and shares the depths of God's wonder with us. In New Age spirituality we hear people say all the time that the 'universe' is supporting them. That is the Gentile way of saying the Holy Spirit is moving. They are not exclusively the same thing. The holy trinity often goes by different names by those who have chosen to believe in its power but not submit to the authority of the church.

We call God: Consciousness, Oneness, the Great Spirit. We call the Holy Spirit: the Universe, even helper beings (which also refers to angels and saints). We call Yeshua: the

spirit guide, ancestor, and teacher. Although these terms move beyond just them, they are also ways that people talk about them when they don't recognize the face that they are interfacing with.

But for those of us who are Christian, we get to keep it as pure as possible. We say all: '...in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.' When we call upon his name we invoke his power by connecting to the very power that he resourced: the Holy Spirit. When in alignment with God's plan, we become a conduit for the energy moving in this world, an orchestrator and director of it.

And when our desire is surrendered to God's will, then that alignment protects us from corruption. And... to make sure that we stay on the right side of that, we *should* always bring it home with the ultimate filter for our reality: 'Thy will be done, Lord of Heaven's Armies.'

The Bible provides 72 names for God. Each with its own meaning and is essentially the prayer we invoke and the aspect of God we are requesting in our prayer.

And so...

In the name of the Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

Thy will be done, Lord.
Always in all ways.
Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Solely to the Glory of God.

Selah

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