

Easter: Story of Love

Easter is a story of love. Granted, the events preceding it provide an account of hatred and jealousy and greed and unbridled ambition and lying and political machinations, for they represent man at his worst. What happened in the days leading up to Easter portrays the world's blackest moments.

But through it all, the love of God comes shining through. It is a love that is pure, undefiled, unselfish, supernatural, beyond human comprehension and far-reaching. It is the bright beacon of all the ages.

Jesus was the embodiment of God – and of love, for the Holy Scriptures say God is love. Dr. Luke, in the 23rd chapter of his book, tells us about Easter:

“And there were also two others, malefactors, led with him (Jesus) to be put to death. And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

“And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek and Latin, and Hebrew, This is the King of the Jews ...

“And it was about the sixth hour (noon), and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour (3 p.m.). And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.”

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in a borrowed tomb. A large stone was rolled across its entrance and a Roman seal was placed upon it, forbidding access.

“There,” the chief priests of Israel, who had plotted against Jesus, must have thought. “That is the end of our trouble.”

Finally, reasoned Pilate, the Roman governor who believed Jesus to be innocent but delivered Him up to be crucified for political expediency, the threat against his office had been quashed. He had given the Jewish rulers what they wanted, and they had no reason to protest to Rome. The matter involving Jesus was ended. The case was closed.

Not so. Oh, how wrong these leaders were.

In the 24th chapter, Dr. Luke moves from the world's worst tragedy to the greatest news story this planet has ever heard.

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they (women followers of Jesus) came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

(continued)

“And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

He is risen!

The excitement of that announcement rang across the hills of Israel and through all the ages since. Jesus had conquered death and the grave.

But more than that, He offers the gift of eternal life to all who believe in Him and who are willing to invite Him into their hearts.

He is willing to forgive all the hatred and jealousy and greed and unbridled ambition and lying and political machinations – and all the other evil that resides within the minds and hearts of men – if we but accept Him.

Easter is, indeed, a story of love.

Share that love with Him and others as you celebrate Easter this weekend.

--Beecher Hunter