

St. David's Presbyterian Church
St. John's, NL
"From nonsense to the meaning of Life"
Dr. J. Dent

April 4, 2010
Easter Sunday

Easter is a dramatic time and for years I've been trying to do something dramatic to make sure we get some of the impact of the day. I've used eggs, to talk about how broken we are and the brokenness we experience. And then I use a special egg to say how Jesus addresses our brokenness in a surprising way. He brings us life through his death and resurrection, you know that is the quintessential Easter story.

I've used chocolates. Once again I've broken chocolate to get at the fact we expect sweetness in life, but we often experience bitter-sweetness. And in the midst of our brokenness, Jesus shows us wholeness.

All of these dramatic things are ways to get to the simple truths of Easter. These simple truths are: The women wanted to respectfully treat the body of Jesus on the day after Sabbath, the first Easter Sunday. They were shocked by what they thought was a theft of the body, but which turned out to be an angelic message that yes, he had died, but also yes, just as he had promised, he has been raised back to life. The women reported the simple, but extraordinary message that Jesus was no longer dead but alive.

The eleven remaining disciples were confused at best. The women's words seemed to them like nonsense, according to Dr. Luke, chapter 24, verse 11. But Peter, who had denied the Lord, but who apparently still was hanging out with the disciples, heard the news and ran to the tomb. He too saw what the women saw, the empty tomb, the grave clothes themselves empty and "he wondered to himself what had happened."

As we are honest on Easter, many of us wondered what happened. Every year the magazines and TV and various media debate what historically happened. We orthodox Christians simply state that Jesus did in fact raise from the dead and therefore confirmed all his amazing claims, that he had actually been who he said he had been. This was the day of confirmation of the followers of Christ. Christianity was born on this day that death was destroyed.

But for many of us on Easter Sunday, we still come skeptical. We come wondering whether it is all true. Some come wondering whether God is real, and whether what and who we are trusting is true. Some may even come believing it is all nonsense, but some people need it.

I simply stand before you and declare it is true. Each of us needs to find what we need in life to come to grips with our need of God and our need of one another. Nothing I tell you today might change your mind. Nevertheless I tell you that Jesus Christ is faithful. He is risen. He does have power to address you and your life choices for good.

The only question is whether we will choose to come. So on this Easter, we offer the Lord's table to everyone who would come. You can meet with him here at His table. He can help you in whatever you going through.

Bring your doubts, your questions, your concerns, your love, your trust, your confusion, bring it all to the Lord. Stay in conversation with Him. And he will bring life into the midst of all the dead ends in your journey. He finds a way where there was none before.

Let us pray.