

**APRIL 4, 2010 EASTER**

**GOD'S GREAT CLEANUP**

**LUKE 24:1-12**

**WHEN GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD, IT WAS GOD'S "YES" TO EVERYTHING JESUS WAS AND EVERYTHING JESUS DID. IT WAS GOD'S 'YES' TO THE EVENTUAL VICTORY OF JESUS "WAY OF COMPASSION" OVER AGAINST ALL WAYS ARRAYED AGAINST THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD. IT WAS GOD USING ETERNAL LIFE WITH JESUS TO DO BATTLE AGAINST THE INJUSTICE AND VIOLENCE IN THIS WORLD. IT WAS THE DAY WHEN THE RESTORATION OF THE WORLD BACK TO THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE, BEGAN. IT WAS THE START OF GOD'S GREAT CLEANUP.**

**SAYING 'YES' TO JESUS, MEANT GOD SAID "NO" TO CERTAIN THINGS. THE BRUTAL, UNJUST DOMINATION THAT COULD SEND A BEAUTIFUL, INNOCENT, HOLY PERSON TO HIS DEATH WAS DEFEATED THAT DAY. YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY WHAT HAPPENED TO HITLER AND STALIN AND ALL THOSE OTHER CAESARS WHO WORSHIPED THEMSELVES AND TRIED TO GET THEIR PEOPLE TO DO SO. WHERE ARE ALL THE PLANNED ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE WORLD. SO FAR, ALL HAVE BEEN SENT INTO THE TRASH HEAP OF HISTORY. JESUS WAY ENDURES.**

**ON RESURRECTION DAY, GOD SAID "NO" TO ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS. GOD HAS PUT THE WORLD ON NOTICE; GOD WILL DO AWAY WITH THE WAYS WE MISTREAT AND ARE CRUEL TO ONE ANOTHER. GOD DESPISES THOSE IN POWER WHO WORK TO THEIR OWN ENDS AND AGAINST DECENT PEOPLE. GOD SAID "NO" TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO TORTURED JESUS, MOCKED HIM, CURSED HIM, HIT HIM, ABUSED HIM. AND GOD IS DOING AWAY WITH ALL OF THAT AS WE SPEAK. WHERE IS SLAVERY? IT WAS ENDED BY BRAVE CHRISTIANS. WHERE IS MISAPPLIED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? THE INNOCENT ARE BEING FREED BY THOSE GOOD ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER TO DO DNA TESTING ON EVIDENCE TO FIND THE INNOCENT. THAT IS WHERE GOD IS? THAT IS WHERE THE RISEN ONE IS WORKING---SUBTLELY, QUIETLY, JUSTLY!**

**GOD'S GREAT CLEANUP INVOLVES US. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT PEOPLE FILLED WITH CHRIST'S LOVE AND GRACE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO BE ON THE SIDE OF WHAT IS HONEST AND FAIR. WHEN WE SEE HOW CERTAIN HUMAN SYSTEMS SEEK TO DESPIRITUALIZE THE WORLD AND**

**DEHUMANIZE US, WE NEED REMEMBER THAT CHRIST LIVES AND IS USING US TO MOVE THE WORLD BACK TO DECENCY AND DEEP RESPECTFULNESS. GOD IS ALWAYS CLEANING UP THE WORLD UNTIL CHRIST'S KINGDOM COMES.**

**AND WE OUGHT TO BE PARTNERING WITH GOD TO LET GOD CLEANSE US. FOR EASTER MEANS NOTHING IF IT DOESN'T RADICALLY CHANGE OUR LIVES. THIS IS NOT ABOUT A LIGHT SPRING CLEANING, THROWING SOME DIRT UNDER THE RUG. THIS IS NOT A BRIEF TOUCH-UP WITH ONE OF THOSE SWIFFER DUSTERS. THIS IS NOT JUST COVERING THE STINK WITH SOME AEROSOL, EASTER IS ABOUT DOING AWAY WITH WHAT MIGHT BE ROTTEN INSIDE OF US. FOR GOD'S GREAT CLEANUP IS ALSO ABOUT TRANSFORMING OUR INNER SOULS.**

**ARE WE PERPETUATING DISHONESTY AND ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS? IT'S TIME TO LET CHRIST CLEAN IT OUT, SO WE CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO BETTER EASTER PEOPLE. ARE YOU PRONE TO ANGER OR VIOLENCE OR JUST PLAIN MOCKING OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WHETHER CLOSE TO YOU POR STRANGERS? THEN YOU ARE TREVICTIMIZING CHRIST, YOU ARE CRUCIFYING HIS CHILDREN! LET GOD CLEAN IT OUT OF YOU. BE WILLING TO BECOME ANOTHER NEW PERSON—A LOVING PEACEFUL ONE. STOP SIDING WITH THE UNJUST EVIL DOMINATION SYSTEM OF DEATH—AND COME TO REAL AND ETERNAL LIFE. NO NEED TO WAIT. EASTE R HAPPENED! WE CAN LIVE THE KINGDOM NOW!**

**THESE ARE JUTS A FEW EXAMPLES. WE ALL ARE STUCK IN SOME FORM OF SINFULNESS, EGOTISM, AND HARMFUL HABITS---WE BATTLE OURSELVES ALL THE TIME AND, MANY TIMES, WE WORK AGAINST HEALTH, LIFE, JUSTICE, AND FAIRNESS. WE COME OUT ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BATTLE. WE OFTEN LOSE TO OUR LOWER NATURES.**

**EASTER REMINDS US THAT DEATH IS NO MORE.**