

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



# THE LENEXA EDIFIER



John 8:32

*"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"*

April 12, 2020

## *"He has risen"*

*by Jim Stauffer*

While the Scriptures do not teach us to honor a holiday called Easter, it is unavoidable for the entire world to be focused on it due to the attention given by various media outlets. Let us be clear that those who are intent on following Scripture honor the death, burial and resurrection every first day of the week as the faithful saints of New Testament days did (**Acts 20:7**)

With those things in mind let us reflect on some passages that make His resurrection real and not some fairy tale for people to regale from one to another.

*"Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come see the place where He was laying." (**Matt. 28:1-6**)*

*"But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she \*saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they \*said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She \*said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and \*saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus \*said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she \*said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus \*said to her, "Mary!" She turned and \*said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher)." (**John 20:11-16**)*

These events should leave us with similar feelings to the disciples, "They said to one another, *"Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"*" (**Luke 24:32**)

## JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

*"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.' And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'" (**Luke 4:16-21**).*

After a trip to Jerusalem (**John 2-4**), Jesus began His Galilean ministry; the bulk of His work would be away from Jerusalem, the temple, and the ubiquitous Pharisees. Still, Jesus' world was one of political, religious, and ethnic turmoil. Undercurrents of seething resentment from the Romans toward the Jews, from the Jews toward the Romans and Gentiles, and from the Gentiles toward the Jews, covered Palestine with the possibility of trouble on many fronts. Competing mindsets and agendas brought discussion, debates, and sometimes violence. Jesus steps into this world and says: I am here to bring peace; unite with Me in a kingdom like no other.

The origin of the synagogue is unknown. Many suggest that the synagogue originated during the time of the Jewish exile in Babylon. **Nehemiah 8:1** says: *"And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the*

*Lord had given to Israel."* Whether synagogue or not, what Ezra and others did, mirrored synagogue activities. Archeology has uncovered synagogues in the ancient world. More importantly, synagogues were places of community, religious, and social life for the Jews. Synagogues were used as schoolhouses, places of prayer, as meeting houses for religious activities, and as houses of judgment when the community was involved in discipline matters. Charity work, the care of orphans, and instruction in the Law were common in synagogues.

When Jesus entered the synagogue on that eventful Saturday 2000 years ago, He had the attention of those who were steeped in Judaism. His reputation had preceded Him. And now He returns to His boyhood home. What would He say? Would He fan the flames of rebellion and rally His fellow Jews in rebellion against Rome? The message of Jesus was revolutionary, His kingdom was of a different kind. Would He work a miracle that would "put Nazareth on the map"? What could Joseph's son do for the citizens of Nazareth? Nothing? But what could the Son of God do for those sitting in the synagogue with rapt attention, eager to hear? He did for them and does for us what we can never do for ourselves. And so, why wouldn't we want to hear everything Jesus has to say? Have you been to the synagogue lately?

**Randy Harshbarger**

## A Psalm of Encouragement

Jimmy Stewart was a successful actor prior to the beginning of WWII and left Hollywood for the military flying B-17's in Europe. He eventually achieved the rank of Brigadier General before returning to acting. When leaving home (Indiana, Pennsylvania) for the military his father gave him a copy of Psalm 91 to carry with him. Jimmy later said it was his father's way of saying he loved him. The Psalm reads partially:

*I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in whom I trust.  
For he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, And  
from the deadly pestilence.  
He will cover thee with his pinions, And under his wings  
shalt thou take refuge: His truth is a shield and a buckler.  
Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, Nor for  
the arrow that flieth by day;  
For the pestilence that walketh in darkness, Nor for the  
destruction that wasteth at noonday.  
A thousand shall fall at thy side, And ten thousand at thy  
right hand; But it shall not come nigh thee. Only with  
thine eyes shalt thou behold, and see the reward*

*of the wicked.*

*For thou, O Jehovah, art my refuge! Thou hast made the  
Most High thy habitation;  
There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague  
come nigh thy tent. (Psalm 91:2-10)*

Those of you familiar with the European Theater of Operations of that war know that the Eighth Air Force had one of the highest loss rates of the war. If recollection serves me right, Jimmy said he read these words before every mission he flew and they gave him great courage. In light of what we are facing now perhaps we ought to be reading this Psalm daily?

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## The Train Just Rolls Away (Some Lessons on Opportunity) Martin Bragwell

*I pass a town with no name  
Seen through the window of a train  
A boy and girl stand side by side  
The train arrives, she kisses him goodbye  
She turns away then steps on board  
He thought he'd die but now he's sure  
But as he thinks of one last thing to say  
The train just rolls away*

**from "Long Train Ride" by Ben Lee**

We often suffer pain and sorrow in our lives from things that were never in our control. While that lack of control frustrates us, we somehow find the strength to persevere. However, no pain compares with that we suffer because of our own missed opportunities. Our gracious Lord gives us multiple opportunities to positively affect our own souls and those of others. How often do we recognize and appreciate these opportunities after they've gone by, sometimes just barely too late to make a difference?

The quiet man who sits on the eighth pew has been visiting services for several weeks. He hears the gospel and learns that God loves him (**John 3:16**), that Jesus died for him and shed His blood for him (**Heb. 9:14**). He finds it astounding, but somehow almost believable, that the one who created him would leave the perfect perfection of heaven so that he, this quiet and uncertain man, could see heaven's perfection as well. Yet, all that Creator asks of him is a few simple steps of obedience (**Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16**). Sure, he realizes that this obedience will be followed by a constant commitment to change his life to the wishes of his Lord. That, too, seems a small price to pay for what he wants more than anything. So as he leaves to go home, he knows he

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wants to change his life. He knows he wants to escape his uncertainty. He knows he wants purpose in his life. He knows he wants to live without the fear he's always felt. He doesn't know that before the sun rises again, he'll be dead. ***And the train just rolls away.***

The Christian sees his neighbor across the fence. He notices his neighbor's hair is thinner than it was 5 years ago when they first moved in. He realizes that neither of them is getting any younger. He is glad that he remembered to "*love his neighbor*" (Rom 13:9) He remembers with satisfaction how he mowed his neighbors' yard following the latter's surgery and how sincerely grateful his neighbor was. He remembers the quiet summer evenings they sat on the patio and talked while the smoke drifted from the grill. He remembered how they joked about their wives selling everything they owned in the joint garage sale. He then realizes he's never talked to his neighbor about Christ. It shames him to know of those who "went into all the world" with the gospel (Mark 16:15-16), yet he never took it next door. He knows that has to change. He knows now that he can and must do it. He knows that he will do it even if it upsets his comfortable neighborhood. He just knows that the one person that will listen to him is his neighbor to whom he has gotten so close. He doesn't know that just a year ago his neighbor, after searching desperately for years for some higher purpose and finding only disappointment and disillusionment with religion, had decided to never try again. He doesn't know his neighbor has now shut the door of his heart with a vow to never open it again, a vow that will be kept the rest of his life. The Christian begins his efforts to teach, not knowing his opportunity has already passed. ***And the train just rolls away.***

Christian parents, knowing they want to be godly parents, notice how hard it is to keep their children clothed and fed. They seem to be growing faster than their needs can be purchased. And lovely Children they are! Their teeth are straight, their bodies healthy, and their grades are good. These children are so comfortable in every social setting and excel at each of the dozens of activities afforded them.

What parents wouldn't thank God every day for them? But a troubling doubt lingers. They haven't always had time to be sure their kids learned the things of God that their own parents had taught them. (Eph. 6:4). Sometimes they really thought they should have been a little more restrictive with their children and disciplined them more often, but just look how popular and happy they are. But still the doubt lingers until they can ignore it no more. Things must change! The Lord must come first in their lives and in the lives of their kids. They know they

can still point their kids toward heaven and instill the priorities that will get them there. They know that their kids can make the Lord happy every day. They know they'll spend a wonderful eternity with these precious souls. They don't know that their children's foundation has already been so firmly laid that it would take 100 lifetimes to point them toward God again. A 100 lifetimes that no one has! ***And the train just rolls away.***

A young woman's godly parents taught her the kind of man she should marry. (Eph. 5:23-25). They never seemed all that exciting to her. Her parent's idea of the perfect mate would have left her on the outside looking in. She would never have the house she wanted with things she wanted if she listened to them. She would never have the "right" circle of friends. She had decided to go her own path and have it all and still love her Lord. Then her best friend, from the little church in which she was raised, got married. Her friend's husband gave them all the things she herself longed for. But her friend wasn't as happy as before and it hurt her to see the sadness in her friend's eyes. She meets a young man, who thinks going to heaven is the most important thing on earth. She marries him although she knows she'll never have some of the things she once wanted so badly. She knows her parents were right, especially her daddy. She knows she should tell him so. She decides to thank her daddy just like she has thanked God for him a thousand times. Instead she thanks his grave. ***And the train just rolls away.***

Two Christian friends are inseparable. They finish each other's sentences and are always on the same wavelength. They anticipate each other's every move, until one decides to leave the Lord. The one who remains faithful cannot believe the other has left and prays for his return. He asks everyone he knows to also pray. He doesn't know what he can say to bring his friend back. He keeps praying for months and months. After a couple of years, he realizes he must take more drastic personal action. (Gal. 6:1) He finally knows just the right words to say. He doesn't know that his friend kept expecting the doorbell to ring for months and was surprised when it didn't until he no longer cared. He doesn't know his delay has made even the right words useless. He doesn't know that the time when he, and only he, could make a difference has come and gone. He learns with tears. ***And the train just rolls away.***  
***The Reflector; [eds-sermons-and-things.com](http://eds-sermons-and-things.com)***

*"Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian. And Paul said, I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am, except for these chains." (Acts 26:28,29)*



**Psa. 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

***Visitors welcome***

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## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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## **NEWS AND NOTES:**

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IS **SEARCHING FOR A KING -**

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**BIBLE CLASS - THE BOOK OF**

**MARK**

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:

ON YOUTUBE AND ZOOM - **WHAT**

**IF CHRIST WAS NOT**

**RESURRECTED?**



## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10