

Easter Day:-

“Alleluia! Christ is Risen! - He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!”

If, like me, you have spent any time reading through the Gospel records of the events of that first Easter Day you will realise that each evangelist has a different take on what happened!

Read Matthew chapter 28, verses 1 – 15; Mark chapter 16, verses 1 – 8; Luke chapter 24, verses 1 – 12 and verses 22 – 24 and John chapter 20, verses 1 – 18.

There are similarities and it is worth noting the most important facts:-

- The stone covering the entrance to the tomb had been moved.
- Mary Magdalene (along with other women) was first to visit the tomb.
- A young man – see Matthew and Mark (or men – Luke) appeared or was present.
- The women were frightened and went to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.
- That the tomb was empty was at first disbelieved by the disciples but seen by Peter and John.
- That the first appearance of the Risen Lord was to women – in particular Mary Magdalene.

I think my favourite reading is that in John chapter 20, verses 1 – 10. It is so vivid that I can visualise Peter and John running to the tomb. Peter a little slower in getting there and on the uptake! John, the younger of the two, going in second but seeing the reality of what had happened.

“He saw and believed” (verse 8).

The reality of the situation was uncertain for most of that first Easter Day, until the Lord Jesus Christ came to the disciples in the ‘Upper Room’ and on the ‘Road to Emmaus’. Remember that the first Easter Day was one of questioning! Has this really happened? The Gospel of Luke has the best description of the fear and concern of the disciples – see Luke chapter 24, verses 36 – 43.

It may be that this is our personal situation at the present time. There were times of questioning even for many of the great characters of faith in the Bible!

Remember, it is our personal meeting in faith with our Risen Lord that confirms for us the reality of His resurrection.!

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.

He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart!

From the hymn ‘I serve a risen Saviour’

Alfred Henry Ackley

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Terry Brighton 8 / 4 / 2023