

Monday, April 13

The day after.

The day after a milestone event still holds some of the excitement and feelings of the day itself, but it is different. It's now a memory rather than a real-time life activity.

A wedding or birthday celebration, a birth or death, a graduation, a major purchase, a good-bye – each of those events seize our hearts and minds while we're experiencing them, and then 24 hours later, we reminisce. The emotion isn't as intense, the event loses some of its detail, and the voices of the rest of life call us back to routine. And gradually, incrementally, we drift to what was familiar and habitual prior to that life event.

I wonder if the disciples experienced that drift the day after Christ's resurrection because, we all know, Monday is the most forgettable day of the week. They've just seen with their own eyes the greatest miracle of all time, all their doubts about Jesus' predictions were confronted and erased, and their present and future are now radically altered in ways they couldn't imagine or script.

In many ways, marriage is like that. When Kerrie and I married, there was a miracle – *the two shall become one*. Any doubt I had about being marriage-worthy was removed, and my perspective on life, decisions, and the future were in the process of being revised.

Yes, marriage does that – but it's not even close to what the resurrection of Christ has the capacity to do, and the power it has to transform.

So, the question for each of us is, "Now that we have celebrated Resurrection Sunday, will we simply go back to life as 'normal', or will we intentionally seek to allow the truth of Christ's resurrection to continue to work in and through us for God's glory?"

In other words, how can we stop allowing lesser things to push the empty tomb to the periphery of our lives? Especially during this time when Covid-19 has invaded so much of our thought life and our conversations. Here are a few suggestions to ponder:

Celebrating Resurrection Sunday isn't a once a year event. We're to celebrate it every week, every Sunday, when we gather (live streaming at this point in time) to commemorate Christ's resurrection. Each Sunday should be a constant reminder of the power of Christ's sacrifice for you and me for the forgiveness of our sins.

In the after-Easter weeks, Jesus *appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles* (1 Corinthians 15:5-7). We have no idea what He said to those people, but we do have the Scriptures, and as we read, and meditate, and apply its truth to our lives, we are hearing the voice of God and we are to respond – just as those to whom Jesus appeared did. Be creative.

And, lastly, on the day after Easter, and every day after that, the stone still remains rolled away from the entrance of Christ's tomb and all God's people have the privilege and the responsibility to proclaim the eternal truth to a dying world that Christ is alive.

The day after. This year let's not put Jesus back in the tomb. Let's unleash Him in our lives to rule and reign and be given the glory He alone deserves.

He is not here! He has risen, just as He said!