

SEE YOU LATER

EASTER SUNDAY 2020

Introduction:

- People of Hawaii have no word for “goodbye”
 - Their word is “Hui Hou: (pronounced “A Way Ho”)
 - Means “until we meet again” ... or “see you later...”
- Jesus had been making that statement for a while.
 - “I will be raised” I will see you later

Nine-year-old Philip had Down’s syndrome. In Sunday School, the kids made fun of him because he was ‘different’.

The Sunday before Easter, the teacher gave each child a plastic egg and asked them to look for symbols of new life, like seeds and leaves, then place them inside the egg. The idea was to open their eggs next Sunday and discuss what they’d found.

When the kids gathered, they’d collected things like flowers, butterflies and rocks. But when the teacher opened Philip’s egg, it was empty. One kid said: ‘*That’s not fair, he didn’t do it right!*’

Philip tugged at the teacher’s sleeve and said: ‘*I did do it right. It’s empty because the tomb is empty. That’s why we have new life.*’ The class gasped – and from then on he became part of the group.

John 12:30-31 *Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”*

1. Crisis Call

- Crisis causes us to rethink.

Charles (Chuck) Colson was one of President Nixon's men jailed over the "Watergate" scandal in 1974. He said:

"I know that the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it.

"Everyone was beaten tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true.

"Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world – and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible!"

- Crisis causes us to make a judgement call.
- Judgement – has the meaning of crisis in it
 - Destruction on the one who makes the wrong call
- ILLUSTRATION: "cup of judgement":
 - destruction came on those who chose NOT to put blood over their doorpost.
 - LIFE came to those who did put blood over their doorpost.
- The death and resurrection of Jesus forces us to make a judgment call – one decision leads to destruction, and one to life.
 - If I call on Jesus – no human obstacle will stop Him
 - Not my broken relationships
 - No political systems or even jail
 - No corona 19 virus can stop Him
 - Jesus is not in isolation.

2. Fear is Contagious – but so is Faith

John 12:31(b) “...now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

- Prince of the world = Satan
- Driven out – crisis in which he is dethroned
 - His power is broken
 - His kingdom is in decline.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

(a) He brings peace to the fearful.

John 20:19-20 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After He said this, He showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

- Fearful situations need not rob us of our peace.

(b) He brings peace to doubters.

John 20:27 Jesus said: “Peace be with you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe!”

- Thomas’ response: “My Lord and my God!”
 - Our doubts are dispelled as we consider the factual evidence for Jesus
 - Our faith is revitalised as we worship and allow His presence (Holy Spirit) to fill us.

(c) John’s vision of Jesus:

- Dressed in robe,
 - golden sash,
 - hair white like wool,
 - eyes a blazing fire,
 - feet like glowing bronze,
- voice like rushing waters
- holding 7 stars
- sharp sword out of His mouth
- face like the sun

Revelation 1:17(b); 18 “*Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*”

- Don’t be afraid – I’ve got it!
 - I am alive – conquered sin
 - Everything I said, you can believe
- Suddenly death is on our minds
 - Jesus has the keys to death and the hereafter.

Harvard scientists have discovered a DNA power switch that controls genes for regeneration. It is hoped that the discovery will one day lead to the ability to regrow limbs, or mimic the jellyfish’s ability to regenerate their entire bodies after being cut in half.

What makes this a double discovery is that it was found among what scientists call “*Junk DNA*” – DNA that was allegedly left lying around by evolution, with no real purpose... There is no such thing as “*Junk DNA*”, just junk science!

When Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die,” Wasn’t He also saying “don’t worry, the code for the whole-body regeneration is real, and I know that code!”

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- Jesus has the key AND He has the code!

Philip’s family knew his time would be short. He had too many problems for one small body. That summer he died. As the class of eight-year-olds faced the reality of death, they marched up to the altar – but not with flowers. Together with their teacher, they each placed an empty plastic egg on their friend’s tiny casket.

Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth on Me though he were dead, yet shall he live.