



#43

**Theme:** Jesus died for me - He has Risen!

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

*"He is not here! (added) He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would!"*

**A Thought:**

The pinnacle of my existence came when I took a deep breath after minutes of trembling and as tears rolled down my cheeks and with a murmur I asked my Lord Jesus Christ to save me from myself. Clearly it was a tremendous personal event to have accepted Jesus into my heart. When I heard our pastor in his baritone voice tell me (the sanctuary was packed) nonetheless it was personal. I felt his words were directed at me. *"Jesus died for you and me"* the preacher cried out. In less than a few minutes it was clear to me that God the Father sent Him to us and He was sinless and within three decades Jesus was the sin-bearer for all of humanity. For me it was a grand Easter and this seminal occasion took place in early fall when the color of leaves were changing and day light hours were fewer. Nevertheless, it was Easter to me! For the first time in my life I took to heart the words spoken by Jesus to Martha *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11:25-26 (NIV). Martha is best known for being too busy to talk with Jesus. However her deep faith responded to Jesus' admonition and unequivocal question. John recorded her response (verse 27) *"Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."* (For more - read Lazarus' story in John 11:38-43). It is also important to read Paul's message to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:12-17) ....14 *"and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith"* Listen gents...this stated fact is the basis of our faith. Without a doubt my Lord Jesus raised me from the abyss of "pride, ignorance and sin."

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- What do you remember when you first accepted the Lord into your heart!
- What transformation took place in immediate fashion?
- In your quietest moments what did the Lord say to you?
- Did your family and friends see any change?
- How is your walk with the Lord today? (Meditate, Pray, Read the Word)

**Scriptures to read:**

- 2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 16:21-28, 17:23, 20:19; John 11:24-25;
- Acts 1:22, 2:29-36, 17:18, 24:15; Romans 1:3, 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15:29;
- Philippians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 1:3

**Quote:** Max Lucado, Christian Author

*“The sinless One took on the face of a sinner so that we sinners could take on the face of a saint!”*

**Bottom Line:**

LXX the Roman numeral that defines my age - plus a couple aging years...though I am young in spirit. I have experienced seventy plus Easters in my life but truth be told it has been less than half that I truly understood the true meaning of what happened between Good Friday and the Resurrection Day we call Easter. The wonderful teachings of Christian teachers in my early childhood years gave me an insight on the meaning of our Lord's death and His resurrection. Those love pockets stayed with me but eventually faded away during my puberty years followed by a gray period and then a dark, dark period leading to my early adult years. Oh, I thought there were more important things in life to consider and Easter was merely another holiday from work. I will never forget the day I accepted Jesus into my heart...my life changed because you my Father accepted me into your heavenly fold. Thank you Lord for your grace, for your love and for your forgiveness. As stated so eloquently in the scriptures you accepted your Father's wish so that..... *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV).

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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