



Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

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Scripture Lesson & Reflection

ACTS 10: 34-43

Let me first say to you, read ALL of Acts 10 as the first 33 verses provide a backdrop to this section (34-43), the focus of this week's reflection.

This week those of us who profess the Christian faith will be celebrating the **crucifixion** and **resurrection** of Jesus (Easter). I see Peter's vision (9-16) and his interpretation of it as both a "crucifixion" and a "resurrection" (vs 28-29). A crucifixion of his ethno-religious bigotry (thinking of Gentiles as unclean) to his new consciousness, a resurrection to the reality that he should preach to those who fear God and does what is right (vs 34-35), whether Jew or Gentile.

I think now more than ever, we should really look deeply at how we interpret and celebrate the Easter weekend, and I think this pandemic is moving a lot of us to just such a place.

What needs to be crucified - going to church only because it is Easter; Easter bunnies and egg hunts; when this pandemic is over, life will return to normal; the consciousness of apathy.

This biblical narrative is calling us to be resurrected, forcing us to confront a new reality, a new normal. This resurrection is - challenging our faith; calling us to examine our relationships; defining what really matters; reshaping or perhaps defining our political views; shattering some social boundaries; forcing us to rethink public, educational, health, and economic policies; and requiring us to define our own "normal".

We ought not to think of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as some historical or metaphysical event, but see ourselves enduring a crucifixion and resurrection also. We, like Peter ought to interpret the Easter narrative as the Creator calling us to move to a new and higher consciousness, enabling us to fear God and do what is right and acceptable to him. Let's not make our "Christianity" be defined by our empty words and piety, but rather by our actions - our caring, empathy, compassion, giving, prayers of thanksgiving, intercession and supplication, and our love for God, the Ancestors and one another.