

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

Jesus told them it would happen. He did it without parable. He spoke plainly and often. But a careful reading of His resurrection accounts in all four gospels leaves us with one inescapable conclusion. None of the followers of Jesus expected His bodily resurrection on the third day. None.

His eleven remaining disciples were in hiding, fearing for their lives and mourning the death of their friend and leader. There was no anticipation of seeing Him alive again. The women showed courage by visiting the gravesite. Yet, their sole purpose was to finish embalming Jesus' dead body, which they fully expected to find, lifeless in the tomb. Why?

In Mark Chapter 9, following His transfiguration, Jesus told Peter, James and John, not to tell anyone about what they had seen until "the Son of Man had risen from the dead." "So, they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean."

Apparently, it never occurred to any of them that He meant exactly what He said. I suspect they chalked it up to just a figure of speech, or allegory or metaphor. Just because something seems incredible does not make it metaphorical. Science tells us dead men do not rise. What else does science get wrong? When men question God's Word among themselves, what else do they miss completely?

Easter is God's shout to the world that the scriptures are true. All of them. The Old Testament told of a messiah who would come in suffering and death. Physical suffering and physical death. The gospels tell of a savior who lays down His life, then takes it up again. Bodily death and bodily resurrection. The rest of the New Testament tells of a Christ who physically ascended into heaven and will "return in the same way as you saw Him go." He left physically; he will return physically.

This Easter, join in with God's victorious shout! The Bible is the word of God! The scriptures are true! Jesus is alive! Jesus is coming again!

See y'all Sunday  
Perry Cunningham  
Lay Leader