

### 13. The Resurrection Journey

“Everything will be all right in the end. If it’s not all right, it is not yet the end”  
(The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel)

Resurrection is a pattern of creation that has always been true and that invites us to much more than belief in a miracle.

- It is a universal principle
- We can already see resurrection happening everywhere (1 cor. 15: 12, 14)
- If the universe is “christened” from the very beginning, then of course it can never die forever.
- It is the general principle of all reality
- It is incarnation taken to its logical conclusion.
- It is another word for long term positive change; in the short run it often just looks like death.
- It is a myth that is always true.
- It is the unexplainable hope that we all have
- It is Christianity’s true and unique story line (us resurrecting to an incarnational worldview?)

### The wedding banquet

- The Resurrection is available to the “good and bad alike.” But . . .
  - Our fragile ego always wants to set boundaries.
  - So we miss the gospel reading points . . . in the subjects.
- Just as the first creation of something out of nothing seems impossible to the human mind, so any notion of life after death seems to demand a huge leap of faith.
  - Grace’s foundational definition could be “something coming from nothing,” and the human mind just does not know how to process that.
  - Thus we don’t like “grace” and we don’t like (or can’t get) “resurrection.”

“God is the one who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

“All goes onward and outward . . . and nothing collapses, and to die is different from what anyone supposed and much luckier” (Walt Whitman)

### Reality with a Personality

- Neither Christ nor Jesus is outside of our natural reality.

- We need to name it, giving it a face not appearing to reality from another world.
- Recognize that the inner and outer meanings are the same; they mirror each other:
  - Human anthropology (view of human) matches a divine theology (view of God)
  - Incarnation is when the change in one's view of God changes one's view of humans.
- Resurrection is grace taken to its logical and full conclusion.
  - If it begins in grace, it must continue in grace upon grace.
  - From this fullness we might have the courage to join Jesus in imagining the "I and the Father are one."
  - Every time you choose love or positively connect with someone or something, you are in touch with the Divine Personality.
  - The opposite of a witness of resurrection is hell,
    - Which is not geography,
    - But a negative state of consciousness

### What Happened at Jesus' Resurrection?

- Basically, one circumscribed body of Jesus morphed into ubiquitous light.
  - Thus, the best metaphor for Christ or God is "Light," probably.

"The tombs also were opened and many bodies of those who had fallen asleep were raised up." (Mat. 28:51-53)
- An invitation was extended to us to become children of the light . . . we were told that we, too, participate in the same mystery, and he is here to aid in our respective resurrection process
  - We can live our lives with the same faith and grow in the same wisdom, age and grace.
  - We depict the "glorified body" or the "subtle body" emergence with a halo or aura showing that a saint, for example participate in the shared light (the universal Christ)
  - One could call Jesus' resurrection Jesus' "universalization."
  - People who are properly aligned with love and light will always see in good ways that are not obvious to the rest of us. We still call that way "enlightenment."
  - People of the light will quite simply reveal a high level of seeing, both in depth and in breath, which allows them to include more and more and exclude less and less.

- Jesus Christ was revealed as every man and every woman in their fulfilled state.

“God made all beings this end, to enjoy the same union of humanity and divinity that was united in Christ.” (St. Maximus the confessor – 580 – 662)

“God revealed the Christ [in Jesus] so that humanity could never be separated from the pattern that he portrayed.” (St. Gregory Polamas)

“God (in Christ) became the bearer of flesh (for a time) so that humanity could become the bearer of Spirit forever. (Athanasius 298-373)

- Creation is the first and probably the final Bible, Incarnation is already redemption, Christos is already Eastern, and Jesus is already Christ.
  - If death is not possible for the Christ then it is not possible for anything that “shares in the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)
  - God is by definition eternal, and God is love (John 4:11) which is eternal, (1 Cor. 13:13) and this same love has been planted in our hearts (Romans 5:5, 8:9) by the Spirit dwelling within us.
  - Such fully implanted love cannot help but evolve and prove victorious, and our word for that final victory is “Resurrection.”

## Then What About Hell

God, the father is **life** itself, instead of “Punisher and Chief”; Jesus descended to hell to liberate and undo it. God is to be trusted, not feared.

- If you are frightened into god, it is never the true God that you meet; if you are loved into God, you meet a God worthy of both Jesus and Christ.
  - How you get there is where you arrive
  - We must see Jesus as triumphing over hell and emptying it out.
- Our common image of hell has much more to do with mythological thinking, athletic contest, and punitive practice than with anything representing God’s radically and infinity.
  - It is in the purview of imperialism that we get retribution, just punishment and a just world. Hell is man-made, out of need. God has no use for it.
  - God’s justice is more in the line of healing: forgiveness and divine mercy. Restorative Justice is another way of saying what God’s Justice is
    - God’s justice makes things right at the very core, and ends are not achieved through punishment. There

seems to be no Gospel record of Jesus punishing anyone or anything.

- Only God has the “win-win” worldview and good news for all people, so trust the divine mind.

## **We shall all be changed**

“The West Lost and the east kept the original Easter vision.

- Imagine the risen Christ standing astride the darkness and the tombs pulling souls out of hell . . . with chains and lock flying in all directions.
- As oppose to a man stepping out of a tomb with a white banner in his hand with nothing on it.

“We are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed” (to an incarnation worldview) (1 cor. 15:51)

- In fact, Resurrection is about the whole of creation, it is about history, it is about every human who has ever been conceived, sinned, suffered, and died a tortured death, every element that has changed from solid to liquid, to ether, over great expanses of time.
- The Christ journey is indeed another name for everything, and everything is about shifting to an incarnation paradigm, or worldview.