

Summary of *HE LIVES!* + + + EASTER MORNING  
Sunday Lesson on April 8, 2007 \* Reverend John Strickland  
Bible Verses: John 20: 1 -18.

Over the centuries some false beliefs have developed about Easter. A prevalent belief is that God was an angry, disappointed God Who needed to be appeased by the sacrifice of one perfect person. The people of the Old Testament attributed every natural occurrence to the favor or disfavor of God. If the crops came in abundantly, an animal was sacrificed as a thank offering. If there were periods of drought, then an animal was sacrificed to attempt to curry God's favor. People believed that human beings were such awful creatures that God must be given the sacrifice of a perfect human being. Conversely, Jesus taught a loving God and that people were, in fact, good by nature. He came to show us how good God is and how good we can be when we align with God. His death was a supreme sacrifice, but not to pay off an angry deity. His sacrifice was as our Elder Brother and Wayshower to show us that when we hold to our faith in God, God will see us through the most extreme circumstances, even death itself.

A recent television special made the claim that Jesus' tomb and perhaps His bones have been discovered in Jerusalem. From my research, I find such a claim to be without foundation. The bigger question remains: Would your faith be shaken if it were proven that Jesus was not resurrected on Easter morning? Mine would not. We might ask a second question: Was Jesus' resurrection physical or spiritual? We know that the reports of Jesus' appearance spoke of a body radically different from a human body. I say that we are spiritual beings living in a human body suit. This body is perishable. The spirit is eternal. It does not matter to me one iota whether Jesus was resurrected in a physical body or a spiritual body.

I heard a television advertisement for an Easter service, in which the announcer claimed, "Reverend So-and-so will offer intercessory prayers on your behalf." Charles Fillmore said that we could go "straight to spiritual headquarters". I was trained in the Silent Unity prayer methods and served as Director of Silent Unity, our worldwide prayer ministry. We do not pray for others. We pray with them. You can go to God without an intermediary. And, there is power in united prayer.

Here is what I see as the most important point of Easter: The same power that resurrected Jesus is alive, present and active in us today. If there is any part of our lives that seems dead and buried, that power can resurrect it now! In chapter 11 of the 4T Prosperity Course, Reverend Stretton Smith writes, "The whole of God, every

aspect of God, is everywhere present in space at the same time. Now hear this: the whole of God was no more centered in Jesus than is God centered in you... There was no more God centered in Jesus than in you. Wow! Double WOW! However, there is a difference. There's an obvious difference. Jesus was totally centered in God, while you normally center yourself in something less than God" (P. 183). May you center yourself in the miracle-working, resurrecting power of God in your life right now. With God, nothing is impossible to you. Every part of your life which seems dead can be resurrected. He lives in you! Believe it!