

Easter: What's It To You?

By Randal Stephens

What are you doing Easter Sunday? If you're like most of the Christian world, you're waking up early and getting the family dressed to the hilt for church. There will be shiny shoes and satin dresses, ties for the boys and gloves for the girls. They'll all be handsome, beautiful and reverend.

It's the Lord's Day, His resurrection day. There is reason to celebrate and you should.

But Sunday afternoon, all those clothes will be hung, folded and put away for the next special occasion; a wedding or funeral or something. Before mom has even made lunch, it'll be over and then it'll be back to business as usual.



But after Christ's resurrection, it wasn't.

Over the course of the next forty days, beginning resurrection Sunday, Jesus remained and appeared on earth several times. But He didn't just show up.

He *revealed* Himself.

But those who saw Him didn't recognize Him, or couldn't believe. But He showed them their doubt and then countered it, with His words and with His scars. He called them and prepared the way for the Holy Spirit.

One morning, a week or two after he rose, Jesus had come to His disciples and had eaten with them. That morning, He took a walk with Peter, another disciple following close behind. Three times Christ asked Peter if he loved Him.

Three times, as if to remind Peter that he had once betrayed Jesus three times, and in the same breath, forgive him for it.

He then goes on to tell Peter of the type of death he would suffer and how it would be carried out, a sobering thought for a man who is walking with his resurrected Messiah. Peter is shaken.

Peter saw the disciple following and asked, "what about him?" Jesus simply asked a question. "What's it to you? If I leave him here alive until I return, what is that to you?" You, follow me." Jesus, the resurrected Christ.

Follow Me.

After His resurrection, Jesus revealed Himself to those who loved Him. He removed their doubt and called them to serve, as He does with us today. He walked with them, sat with them, ate with them; *communed* with them, as He does with us today.

And they lived for Him, for the rest of their lives.

So, it doesn't really matter what you're doing Sunday.

What are you doing Monday?