

Are you there? (Easter sermon - part 2)

Matthew 28:16-20

March 23, 2008

Are you there?

Are you there now, a living, breathing witness to the resurrection of Jesus?

Are you there now, tingling with the excitement of the world as it will be?

Are you there?

Leaving the old ways and the old you behind, and embracing the new ways and the new you?

Embracing the way of love, and leaving behind the way of fear?

Embracing the way of faith, and leaving behind the way of cynicism?

Embracing the way of hope, and leaving behind the way of resignation?

Are you there? Embracing the way of love ...

Refusing to judge anyone, and eager to welcome everyone?

Looking hard, not for ways to defeat your enemies, but for ways to make them your friends?

Giving away more of yourself and more of what you have than you can spare, because you understand that you can never give away too much of yourself or too much of what you have?

Are you there? Embracing the way of faith ...

Believing that Jesus' way is the right way?

Ready to speak out boldly for Jesus' way, even when it means going against the tide of public opinion, even when it means putting your reputation at risk?

Ready to live boldly in Jesus' way, even when it could get you into trouble?

Are you there? Embracing the way of hope ...

Not just living out the sum of your days, but living eagerly into the future, for the sake of the future?

Not crushed by the brokenness in you and around you, but ever alive with expectation?

Believing that Jesus is alive, alive now with a quality of life that can never be overtaken by death? Believing that you are alive, alive now with a quality of life that can never be overshadowed by death?

Believing that the suffering and agony and turmoil you see and hear in this world are not its dying gasps, but the birth pangs of a new creation?

Are you there?

Hearing the story -- *I will be with you always to the end of the age*? Seeing the story? Being the story?

Are you there?

Overcome with awe? Overcome with gratitude? Overcome with joy?

Knowing Jesus is alive? Seeing Jesus is alive? Seeing signs of the power of the resurrection at work all around you ... and in you?

Are you there? ... Do you want to be there?