

EASTER REMINDER: GOD’S RESOURCES ARE UNLIMITED

In the resurrection story from Luke’s gospel there is a pertinent question asked. The women go to the tomb looking for Jesus. Two men in the garden ask, “*Why do you seek the living among the dead?*” (Luke 24: 5) Our Easter faith reminds us that Jesus is risen and points to our hope of resurrection. Easter also reminds us that God has freed us from “dead” forms of religion. Yet the question of the two men still haunts us, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

The month of April will have much to celebrate in church life. The Holy Week festivities begin with Palm Sunday. Most of our congregation will have meaningful palm processions led by our children. Holy Week reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice to set us free from the power of sin and death. The celebration culminates with Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is the highest attendance service for most of our congregations. Ironically with everyone in church, the Easter offering usually leaves much to be desired. Folks are in church celebrating the resurrection, but they certainly have not discovered that resurrection living extends to the wallet.

April is one of those months where preaching about or talking about stewardship is overshadowed by the celebration of Easter. However, Easter calls us to give up some of our dead thinking with regards to money and possessions. One of the ways we have been looking for the living among the dead is to practice scarcity theology. We have come to believe that there is only “so much to go around.” Whether the discussion is about natural resources or money for bailouts, there is only “so much.” While this may be true in the natural world, for resurrection people, it is a dead paradigm. God’s resources are unlimited.

As we lead others in the celebration of Easter, we should begin by freeing our thinking from the dead limitations of scarcity. A good way to lead people into a deeper level of stewardship thinking is to claim the abundance that is ours in Christ Jesus. If we believe God has abundant resources and that he lavishes those generously on his people, we will begin to experience a resurrection of the wallet.