

The Easter Story



St. Matthew 27: 45-50; 28: 1-10, 16-20.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabach thani?" that is to say, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus,

which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Across the

Editor's Desk

For the first time in American history, farmers are a little-known and disadvantaged minority in a disinterested and often hostile society. As a result farmers are receiving less and less consideration by Federal, State, and local governments.

In the early years of our nation, most of the people were farmers. When the first census was taken in 1790, 95 per cent of the population lived on farms and in rural towns. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and many of the other early leaders were farmers.

Farmers are a Minority

Today, farmers are a small minority in our population. There are only about 9 million persons living on our 2.7 million farms. Furthermore, about half of these farms produce very little in the way of agricultural products. The people living on them get most of their income from other sources. Only about 4 million persons, two per cent of our population, receive most of their income by farming.

Farmers are Unknown

In earlier years, many of the people living

in urban areas were born and reared on farms or in small towns, and they knew something about farmers and their problems. Most of today's citizens were born and grew up in cities or suburbs. They know little or nothing about agriculture or about typical farm people, acquiring much of their ideas about farmers from cowboy movies on television; also, from cartoons and articles picturing farmers as employing farm workers for starvation wages, living high on government checks, and profiteering from high meat prices. Many of our city writers, reporters, and commentators are not acquainted with farmers and know little about agriculture. Consequently, they present distorted views of farmers and their industry.

Farmers are Disadvantaged

Farmers are a disadvantaged group in our economy. One major reason is that farming is an industry of decreasing labor requirements; hence, of employment opportunities. Furthermore, in many farming communities there are few opportunities for off-farm employment. Agriculture is also an extremely competitive industry in an increasingly monopolistic society. Strong monopolies are demonstrated when well-paid wage and salary earners strike for more money while other qualified and willing workers are denied employment.

Society is Hostile to Farmers

Most of our nonfarm citizens would probably deny that they are hostile to farmers. But hostility, or the lack of any serious concern about farmers, is demonstrated by frequent interruptions of the harvesting, marketing, processing, and distribution of farm products. This attitude is also reflected by the enactment of federal, state, and local laws that farmers and other informed persons consider to be unwarranted, as well as unfair to farmers.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Manage Strawberries

Strawberries have always been a very popular small fruit and one that most folks can grow and enjoy. Early spring is the time to set out new plants and to remove part of the mulch from the old beds. With the new plants it is best to get them into the ground as soon as possible so they will develop runners early in the season; early runners make stronger plants that yield more fruit next spring. The old bed is the one that will produce the 1972 crop and if part of the mulch is removed over the row now, it will give the plants a chance to grow and still leave some mulch underneath upon which the berries will develop. A good supply of captan should be on hand to spray the plants for the control of fruit rots and leaf spots. Malathion may be used to control spittlebugs and other insects. Strawberries return good money for the small amount of land and out-of-pocket expenses required.

To Plow Promptly

This suggestion will do little good to those corn growers who are "no-till" growers, because I'm suggesting that barnyard manures be spread on the fields and plowed down or disced in promptly. This is not possible with no-till corn growing. Under today's pollution-minded environment it is best to try and get along with your neighbors. The plowing down of the manure as soon as possible after spreading on the field should reduce the extend of the "country odor" among the neighborhood.

To Strive for Quality Forages

The growing season is at hand and many crops of hay and silage will be growing. Even though corn silage is the main forage on many dairy and livestock farms, the utilization of the hay crops is very important and proper management should add feed nutrients. There are a number of things very important in harvesting a quality forage crop such as free from weeds and varieties that have considerable leaf surface rather than all stems. However, the most important thing is to harvest the crop at the proper stage of maturity and at a time when weather conditions will permit some drying time in the field. Growers are urged to become acquainted with the proper time to cut their crop in order to get the most feed value. The Extension publication titled, "Silage and Silos" is a good one and a supply can be found at our Extension Office. Make an effort to harvest quality this year in the hay and silage crop.

To Utilize Custom Operators

The investment in equipment is extremely high on many farms in this part of the state according to farm management authorities; in most cases this is because of the intense agriculture on a small acreage, along with the idea that if you own the equipment, then you can do the job when you want it to be done. However, from the economics of the investment it may be best to depend upon your custom sprayer or operator to come and do the work for you. In many cases, as with spraying, the custom man has good equipment properly calibrated and is very knowledgeable about the materials to be used. Give him a chance to help keep down the investment.

so extreme in their reaction, there are many who similarly refuse to think about that question until it is thrust upon them. As many have discovered, an emergency is a poor time to think through one's convictions about death and its aftermath.

So Easter is a time—though hardly the only time—when every Christian ought to re-evaluate his faith and be honest with himself: "Do I really believe in the Easter faith or is it only a 'happy ending' tacked on to an otherwise tragic story?"

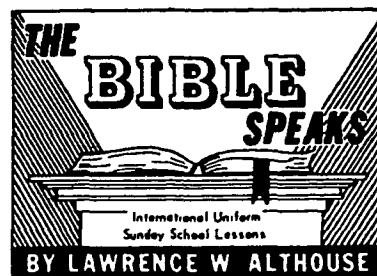
Paul himself felt that it was necessary to honestly face this question ". . . if Christ was not raised, then our gospel is null and void, and so is your faith; and we turn out to be lying witnesses for God . . . If it is for this life only that Christ has given us hope, we are of all men most to be pitied." (15:14-19)

He appeared also to me

Paul gives a lot of thought and reflection to the resurrection of Christ. For one thing, he believes because of the compelling testimony of others who experienced the risen Lord. He cites a whole list of those who were eyewitnesses to the first resurrection appearances of Christ.

Yet Paul had an even greater reason to believe: "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me" (15:8).

Paul says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (15:58). The resurrection, you see, is not an ending at all, it is much more, a "happy beginning!"



THE HAPPY BEGINNING

Lesson for April 2, 1972

Background Scripture 1 Corinthians 15
Devotional Reading 1 Corinthians 15
51-58

When we were children, many of the books we read ended with something like "And they lived happily ever after." Stories always had a "happy ending." As we grew older, however, we found that these stories were somewhat deceptive, for some people do not live "happily ever after," and some stories do not have "happy endings."



Perhaps it is because of this sobering disillusionment about "happy endings" that some people have trouble with the resurrection faith of Christianity. On Easter Sunday, probably a hundred and eight million Americans will be in churches celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, yet studies have shown us that many of these same people either do not believe in a life after death or at least have grave doubts about it—and the pun is intended!

To think about death

It is said that the late publisher tycoon William Randolph Hearst would not allow anyone in his presence to mention the word "death" in any way. Though not