



Lancaster Farming

OPINION

The Prophet's Easter Story

WHO hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither, was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul and offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many; and made intercession for the transgressors.

—Isaiah 53, Holy Bible.



To Develop A Learning and Quality Initiative

To be successful in business today you need to develop a culture for your business. Recently, I came across several initiatives one of the county's leading agribusinesses has developed for their company. I believe these initiatives should be the part of the culture of all farms.

The Learning Initiative states "We must continually increase our learning ability as individuals and as an organization. We need to develop leaders to take our expertise to the next level of excellence. Our success depends upon individuals with high emotional

quotients (EQ) working and sharing together. EQ are individuals who make sound decisions, admit their mistakes and put what is best for their peers and the organization ahead of their personal agendas."

The Quality Initiative states "We must embrace quality in all that we do. We believe our customers have two perceptions. We have a quality product and quality permeates our organization. However, quality and efficiency must go hand in hand. Greater accuracy and accountability, as required by the customer, will result in the need for higher levels of quality control."

To Understand The Food Chain

Developing alliances with customers and suppliers that form a food chain will be one of the most important decisions farmers will have to make over the next couple of years. Farms will need to be an integral part of the food supply chain. We will need to challenge ourselves to understand the needs of our suppliers and our suppliers' suppliers, our customers and our customers' customers. Farmers will need to partner with those who enhance the strategic advantage for the entire food chain of which they are a part. Then and only then will value be added to the entire food chain and enhancing the bottom line of that chain.

In the process, farmers must align themselves with suppliers

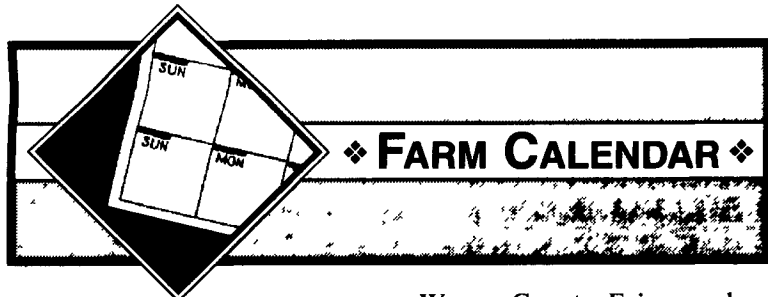
and customers who think the way they think and focus on the same core values they do. The business of tomorrow must be able to assemble the strengths of many partners to become far more nimble and responsive.

To Develop An Environmental Initiative

One of the county's leading agribusinesses has established an initiative to be the leader in meeting environmental concerns. Stewardship is the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others. They recognize the need to accept the responsibility and ownership for providing solutions to environmental problems.

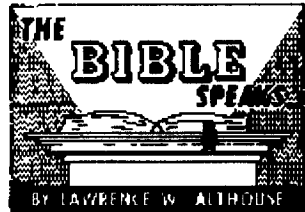
Science is on our side. Through research and future discoveries, we will find different methods which will help solve the environmental challenges at hand. At the same time we, as an industry, need to do a better job educating the consumer of our stewardship efforts and our desire to improve the land and the environment. We will need to document our efforts in order to demonstrate our efforts are real and scientifically sound. Good stewardship is a commitment, a commitment which will lead us to the inevitable conclusion that one must develop and promote sustainable agriculture.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote: "Together we can accomplish the unimaginable."



- Saturday, April 22**
Butler/Mercer County Beef Tour to Ohio, departs from Mercer County extension, 7:15 a.m.
Earth Day Picnic, Hill Creek State Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday, April 23**
Easter Sunday.
Monday, April 24
- Tuesday, April 25**
Pond Management Seminar, Lehigh County Ag Center, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Sheep Shearing School, Carl Gadsby Farm, Kilgore/Wesley, 9 a.m.
Lancaster County Family Living and Consumer Sciences Teachers Banquet, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 26**
- Thursday, April 27**
Tractor Safety Program, Clarion Extension Office, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
York County Conservation District Pasture Walk, Jeff Wolf's Farm, McSherrystown, 10 a.m.
York County Beekeeper's Association April meeting, extension office, Pleasant Acres, 7 p.m.
Regional FFA Public Speaking Contest, Mill Creek Lutheran Church, Newmanstown, 9 a.m.
- Friday, April 28**
Penn State Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet, Ramada Inn, State College, 6:30 p.m.
Farm and Natural Land Trust annual breakfast, Aldersgate

- Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale, 12 p.m.
Sheep and Wool Day, Springton Manor Farm, Downingtown, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
4-H Forestry Field Day, Rockspring, 10 a.m.
International Highland Pen Sale, Empire Livestock barns, Bath, N.Y.
Regional Alpaca Show, Pa. Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru April 30.
Spring Garden Kickoff, Penn State Master Gardeners, Donohoe Center, Greensburg, 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Del Val College "A-Day," college campus, Doylestown, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 30**
4-H Capitol days, thru May 2.
Wissahickon Day Parade, begins at Northwestern Equestrian Facility, Harpers Meadow, near Phila.
- Monday, May 1**
- Tuesday, May 2**
- Wednesday, May 3**
Solar Pump Demo Day, Rocky Acres Polled Hereford Farm, demo at Fisher Farm, near Green Lane Park, tours 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m.
Methodist Church, York, 7:30 a.m.
- Saturday, April 29**
University of Delaware Ag Day 2000, Newark, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sheep Foot Trimming Clinic, Buffalo Mountain Hampshire, Buffalo Mills, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wayne County Holstein Sale,



ITELL YOU A MYSTERY!
April 23, 2000

IBackground Scripture:
1 Corinthians 15.
Devotional Reading:
Romans 1 Corinthians 15:12-19,50-57

If there had been a television crew standing by on the first Easter, we would probably not have any clearer picture of what happened than we do now. The four Gospel writers each describe this experience differently as far as details are concerned. As I have said before, there is much confusion as to just what kind of body with which Jesus was resurrected—the same physical body as before? a different kind of body? a spiritual rather than physical presence? How can we decide what was the nature of the resurrected Lord when we get such different pictures? He walked with two disciples and they didn't recognize him until he broke bread with them—and then he disappeared before their eyes (Lk 24:13-32). "They took hold of his feet and worshipped him" (Mt. 28:9). When he came to the disciples in Galilee, "they worshipped him; but some doubted" (Mt. 28:17). When she first saw him in the Garden, "she did not know that it was Jesus" (Jn 20:14) and he told her not to touch him (20:17). Eight days after Easter, he appeared to the disciples in a room in which the doors were secured and then invited doubting Thomas to touch

his wounds (20:27). In 1 Corinthians 9:1, Paul testifies, "Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" and in 15:8, "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me." Yet in Acts 9:3-6, that experience on the Damascus Road is described as "a light from heaven" and the voice of Jesus. ESSENTIALLY A MYSTERY I have never felt that I had to choose between any of the above, for the resurrection of Christ, I believe, is essentially a mystery that is related to the faith with which it is received by us. It cannot be reduced to a documentary, a formula or a repeatable laboratory experiment. Although all the witnesses to the resurrection give us different details, they are one in assuring us that the tomb was empty and they experienced the risen Lord! In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul is speaking of that witness to the resurrected Lord as the assurance of our own resurrection. Paul raises the very question raised above: "But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?'" (15:35). Unlike the Pharisees who believed that God would resurrect the actual physical bodies, Paul teaches us that the resurrected body will resemble the physical body, but be different—spiritual. "So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body" (15:42-44). A SPIRITUAL BODY? But what is a "spiritual body"? But what is a "spiritual body"—the two words together are a contradiction in terms! If it is a body it is not spiritual and if it is spiritual it cannot be a body. Paul does not leave us in doubt as to whether this is a resuscitated physical body: "I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot

inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable" (15:50). Whatever it is, the "body" is not "flesh and blood."

So where does that leave us? Paul's "spiritual body" sounds like the best description of the indefinable experiences of the resurrected Christ. The victory over death that we share with Christ is not in a physical body, such as we inhabit today, nor in a spiritual mirage, but in a form or state which guarantees a continuity of consciousness and identity. So the power of the resurrection of Christ and ours is not in our ability to comprehend it, but to experience it here and hereafter. It can neither be proven nor disproven, but it is a reality which can be grasped by faith.

"Lo! I tell you a mystery," Paul tells us, a mystery that permits us to confess with him, "Death is swallowed up in victory...thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (15:54,57).

Note: In the Steps of Paul to Rome & Greece, an 18-day tour conducted by Larry & Valere Althouse, is scheduled for April, 2001. If interested, please contact us: 4412 Shenandoah Ave, Dallas TX 75205/e-mail: althouse-s@aol.com; fax: (214) 52109312.

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