

HOMILY EASTER 2018

Believe in what your heart is saying.
Hear the melody that's playing.
There's no time to waste.
There's so much to celebrate.

Believe in what you feel inside.
And give your dreams the wings to fly.
You have everything you need.
If you just believe.

Do you believe in the Resurrection? I bet if I went around the church today and asked each one of you if you believe in the Resurrection you would say "YES!" But do you believe in your heart? There is a difference between believing intellectually and believing in your heart. After all, there was no eye witness to the Resurrection. The truth is the most unreliable evidence is eye witness evidence. I am an attorney, I know. The majority of individuals that were wrongly convicted of crimes and were later proven innocent by DNA evidence were convicted primarily on eye witness testimony. Circumstantial evidence is way more accurate and we have a lot of circumstantial evidence that the Resurrection happened.

First of all, you may argue that Jesus was not really dead; that he had somehow survived the crucifixion. Medical doctors tell us this would have been impossible. Jesus had been brutally tortured the night before and was too weak to even carry the cross. The only way you can survive on the cross is you use your feet to raise your body up. If you hang from your arms you suffocate very quickly. Jesus would not have the strength to do that. Jesus could not have survived the crucifixion.

And what about the empty tomb? Maybe the story that the Roman tried to spread was true, that the body was stolen. So who stole Jesus' body? It would not have been the chief priest or the Romans who condemned Jesus to death. They wanted him dead. They would not want to perpetuate the Resurrection. Maybe it was the disciples. There was only a very small group left

after the crucifixion. If one of them stole the body they all would have known. Eleven of the 12 apostles were eventually martyred. Would all 11 die to perpetuate a lie? That does not make any sense.

And what about the post Resurrection appearances of Jesus? Maybe it was a hallucination. Psychiatrists and psychologists tell us that it is impossible for a group of people to have the same hallucination because the hallucination comes from the individual. It is impossible for a whole group of people to have the same hallucination at the same time. So there is a lot of circumstantial evidence that the Resurrection happened.

So, do you believe, not just intellectually but in your heart? Because if you believe in your heart your life will change. Do you believe in your heart that Jesus, who loves you so much that he was willing to suffer and die for you, lives? Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is with you, 24 hours a day 7 days a week, caring for you? Do you believe in your heart that you never have to do anything alone, that Jesus is always with you? If you do, you will know that beyond darkness there is light, beyond death there is life, beyond sin there is forgiveness. I have come to realize that living a Christian life, loving and serving God and loving and serving others, is the only way to health, wholeness, fulfillment and joy in this world and the next. Think about it. Anything you accomplish for yourself to keep to yourself is hollow and meaningless. Only the things that we accomplish to serve God and other people have meaning. Loving and serving other people can seem overwhelming at times, but if you believe in your heart that Jesus will help you, it gives you the courage to be the best version of yourself so you can better serve God and others.

You have everything you need.
If you just believe.