

A Letter to the Open Minded

EASTER WEEKEND IS HERE.



f You are Like Me

Your inbox and Facebook feed are full of panels and poems, creative, religious and spiritual offerings or inspirational thoughts commemorating Good Friday and Easter. They may mean the world to you. They may inspire, or they may annoy. You may have given little thought about the message and the meaning. But consider the following if you would:

On a real day, in a real moment in time, a man who claimed to be God, who by all accounts, through many witnesses, miraculously and inexplicably healed, restored, fed, enlightened, and loved all who came to him. His message was one of hope. His entire life was one of selfless love. But he was taken by those in power, accused by those who ruled their people through deception. He was beaten, tortured and crucified on a cross like countless thousands before him. But unlike those others, he made remarkable and concrete truth claims, never made by any other in history.

Many have sought power and control. Others have offered and often imposed new ideologies, systems of thought, religious values, philosophical pursuits. But this man sought no political or social movement, claimed no earthly title or position. He did not seek recognition or reward. He did not seek fame, nor did he use his influence and power for personal gain - no politics. He came rather, or so he said, to bring truth - truth directly from the Creator of all things. He claimed that this truth would open people's eyes and would set people free if only we believed this truth. But this truth was not written down in tenants and decrees. He offered no philosophical treaties, no manifesto.

So what then is this truth?

He also claimed that there is a way back to a place of wholeness, of innocence for every person - a way back to God and a way to be all that we were ever meant to be.

But where then is this way? What is this way?

He claimed there is a life which we do not know - not survival, not getting by, not surrounding ourselves with material wealth, with toys and entertainment or infusing our lives with that which temporarily sedates, stimulates or inebriates just to get through the week, but a real, abundant life. He described this life as a place where you'd never be spiritually, emotionally, mentally hungry or thirsty again.



So where then is this life?

He claimed it is on the other side of a door through which every person can walk but not all are willing. We would rather stay on this side of that door - this side of true life. And we are free to do so, free to ignore, free to ridicule, free to dismiss, free to oppose.

So where then is that door?

Perhaps, there is no truth or no real freedom to be found in this truth. Perhaps there is no promised, abundant life and so we may always thirst and hunger for that which we cannot have - no genuine rest, no permanent peace and no ultimate satisfaction.

Perhaps there is no door to walk through. Perhaps we are simply here until it all comes to an end.

Perhaps you regard this man as a phony, a liar, a false prophet, a nut job, delusional or deceived.

Or perhaps you might consider looking into these truth claims for yourself and simply, honestly ask; are they true? Was this man right?

How could we ever trust this man? Maybe because he gave his life so completely to his message, sacrificing everything for his vision, for his mission. Maybe because he died for it, and by comparison, there is little we would ever die for ourselves. Maybe because millions through generations have found exactly what he

promised we could find, if we only looked in the right places.

And what if this man's message did not just end with his death? Are the reports true? Are they more than myths and legends? Are they actually fact, reality, history?

What if this is the truth? What if he was right? Would it cost us anything to investigate, to pursue, to seek and to ask?

What if he really did die on that cross?

What if God really did bring him back to life after three days. What if he really was sent by God, did what he did and meant what he said.

These are only a few of the astonishing truth claims made by this God/man.

Check them out. Consider the implications. Be open for a new way of thinking. What if they are real? What if he is who he says he is?

Jesus said:

"I am the Truth"

"I am the Way"

"I am the Life"

"I am the Door"

"I am the Bread of Life"

"I am the living water"

"No one comes to the Father but through Me"

"I am the life and the resurrection"

"I have come into the world, to testify to the truth"

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free"



"If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"

"Believe in God. Believe also in me"

"I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears Me and opens the door, I will come in to him and will fellowship with him"

"He who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst"

"I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost"

"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst"

"The water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life"

"I have come to set the captives free"

"If the Son sets you free you are free indeed"

"I have come that you might have life and life abundantly"

"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest"

"He who believes in the Son has life"

"For God so loved the world that He send His Only son that whoever believes in him will never perish but have eternal life"