

Easter Day – 20.4.14

Easter – and John in his Gospel this morning appeals to our reasoning and faith in what has happened in the last couple of days. He begins – “The first day of the week” – in a sense – in the beginning, “When it was yet dark” – when i.e. we await the light, “Mary Magdalen comes early to the sepulchre and sees the stone taken away from the sepulchre”. Expectancy anticipation in every other word of John.

And John continues that theme. He has Mary Magdalen running to the disciples – running not because she is cold – but because she has urgent questions. Questions that make it imperative that Peter and John go to the tomb to see for themselves. “They ran both together” – tautology or poetry? They see the linen clothes – and that which was about his head, in a place by itself. We wonder quite why John makes that reference. Is it that the world, for a moment, had muffled the Word of God – but now no longer?

And John (the Evangelist) leaves his readers with an expectancy that will not be stifled.

For as yet they knew not the Scriptures.

Way back. Soon after the second world war years.

It probably happened in other cinemas too. In South Harrow, at the Odeon cinema over some time, there once was what we knew as “Saturday morning pictures”.

Entrance for the very young was very cheap – and in the week of our birthday – free. It was good theatre in that there were serial films – which meant being expectant on what should happen next Saturday. One especially stays in the memory. The hero was pushed from the top of a very high building – we saw him falling – but as yet, on that particular Saturday we knew not what should happen until the following Saturday. A question that pales into utter insignificant next to our knowing not the Scriptures.

But this too is good theatre – in that John’s Gospel, in a very short space, is a commentary on the Scriptures – he teases us into looking further.

And looking further we find, what?

We find eternal life.

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