

Be an Easter disciple!

Easter 2021 is just around the corner. This is the second strange Easter. The first one was last year's. The church was completely empty and, there were no big family gatherings for most families. During the pandemic, most Christians have found ways in which they can stay connected with the community of faith via online to keep the faith. It is for sure that Christians are resilient. We don't easily give up our faith. But that is not true of all Christians. According to a recent study done by the Barna group on 20-somethings (18 – 29 year olds) in the church, only 1 in 10 will go on to become a 'resilient disciple.' It is sad to know that 90 percent of teen and young adults don't belong to the resilient disciples.

What does it mean when someone becomes a 'resilient disciple'?

Resilient disciples are defined as:

Christians who (1) attend church at least monthly and engage with their church, more than just attending worship services; (2) trust firmly in the authority of the Bible; (3) are committed to Jesus personally and affirm he was crucified and raised from the dead to conquer sin and death; and (4) express desire to transform the broader society as an outcome of their faith.

Do you remember the day before the first Easter? Almost all disciples of Jesus Christ hid themselves behind the door when Jesus was made to suffer and was crucified. We can't find any resilient faith in them until they meet the risen Christ. When the risen Lord appeared to the disciples, they still couldn't believe it's Him. Jesus confirmed that it was Him by showing the nail marks and side. Encountering the risen Christ transformed the disciples' faith. Today's Christians are the same. We are not able to become strong and resilient disciples until we meet the risen Christ personally. The keys to building resilient faith are intimacy and conversation with the risen Lord through worship, prayer, Bible reading, walking with the Lord, obeying His words, etc.

Easter Celebration should not be a one-time event in order to become resilient disciples. In Christian tradition, each Sunday is considered a "little Easter." On this Easter, let us recommit ourselves to Christ Jesus who lived, suffered, died on the cross, and has resurrected from the dead. The resilient faith only comes from your personal relationship with the Lord. May God fill you with the faith, hope and love of Easter so that you become a resilient disciple!

He is Risen! Halleluiah!

Your Pastor, Hannah Lee