

**Daily Meditation 4/08/2023**

## **Easter 2023**

Good morning.

Happy Easter on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

And Easter is certainly a liberation story and a resurrection story of deliverance from a fear of death. When this happens, we can live fully. We can play out the teaching from Deuteronomy: "I put before you, life and death. Choose life."

Choosing life is a choice. It's an option *not* to choose life.

We spoke about in yesterday's daily meditation: choosing death for children, such as doing nothing about assault weapons in our schools. It's a choice. It's a choice for death, not for life.

And choosing to do nothing about climate change is a choice. It's a choice for the death of the planet as we know it. It's a choice for rising seas. Therefore, for millions upon millions of migrants, humans all over the world, whose cities lie near the sea who will have to migrate to survive. And of course, a lot of them will not make it. So, there'll be a lot of death.

And it's a choice for famine and death by way of starvation, because it's not just the cities by the sea, but it is our agriculture that will undergo tremendous droughts. And also, tremendous hurricanes and tornadoes, more frequent and more fierce, will destroy crops, as well as people.

But Easter brings hope and good news that humans can wake up and change our ways. That is why Thomas Aquinas says that there are two resurrections. First is waking up in this lifetime. Waking up in this lifetime.

And that's what the lesson of resurrection is. That death does not have to have the last word.

Waking up in this lifetime means taking responsibility to turn things around. Like Paul did, when he woke up, when he fell off his horse, literally. He finally changed his ways, from being a zealot killing people who believed in resurrection, to joining forces because he had experienced a risen Christ who spoke to him. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

And he tells us that 500 people experienced the risen Christ in their own way. Some had a meal with him. Some had fish and bread with him. And some experienced a spiritual body that did not eat.

And, of course, it's a Jewish tradition, resurrection is. The Christians did not make up the idea. That Jewish people themselves were debating in the first century about the reality of resurrection or not. And the Christians came down on the side of resurrection.

That is, Thomas Aquinas says it's about us waking up. That's the first resurrection. And if we do that, he says you don't have to worry about the second wake-up before we die. We rise before we die.

A blessed Easter to all.

Thank you. We'll see you on Monday.