

Easter Sunday Morning

4-12-00

So. Three co-workers were at a funeral home, paying their respects to a retired employee. Afterward, one of them said, "And what would you like people to say about you as they look into your coffin?" The first answered, "I'd like them to look down at me and say, 'She was a groundbreaking person. **She aimed high**, and by her talent and strength, she paved the way for thousands of other women to believe in themselves and **aim high**.'" "

The second responded, "When people look down at my body, I'd like them to say, 'He was a loving and generous man; he really cared about people. He really would give you the shirt off his back!'" "

And the third one answered, "I'd like people to look at my body in the casket and say, *"Look, she's moving!"*

News bulletin: Los Angeles, California. California Angels' rookie starting pitcher, Nick Adenhardt, 22 years old was killed by a drunk driver early on Thursday morning....hours after pitching six shutout innings in the best game of his brief career. Adenhardt was to be remembered before Friday night's game. His agent sobbed uncontrollably.

Dearly beloved, Easter--the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead--is more than bunnies and eggs, ham and chocolate, tulips and gardens, leisurely spring break and hurried income taxes. Easter doesn't ask "what are you bringing to dinner?" No. The Risen Christ asks each of us, "What are you bringing to your life? How high are you aiming? What are you living for? And most importantly, "What are your travel plans when people are looking down at you?"

Easter questions. Nick Adenhardt questions.

We have to understand that Jesus of Nazareth was the first person in history to be permanently raised from the dead. Not resuscitated, like Lazarus, only to die again. No, raised to a new life. The first believers did not make that up or hallucinate the Risen Christ. They thought someone had stolen His body, but they soon began to experience Jesus--alive, real, among them. And many of those first believers died instead of denying what they knew to be true: that Jesus was alive. And that same Christ is here today, in this assembly, in His inspired Word, in the form of bread and wine--His

real Presence.

So, Easter asks big questions, and Christians have big answers. Aim high! Think of what is above! Live a full life! Believe in God, be a disciple of Jesus, pray every day, love even your enemy, do God's will. Do all this, and--like Jesus--you will be raised too! Someday you will see Jesus face to face in heaven! Do all these, and someone with the eyes of faith will be able to look at your corpse and shout, "Look! He's moving! Look! She's moving!"