

SPECTRUM

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METANOIA

The power of Palm Sunday

By John Valk

Statistics indicate that the Bible is the best selling book in the Western world. It has been for decades. Statistics also indicate, ironically, that a large number of people today cannot name the Four Gospels, much less speak of their content.

We are entering the Easter season. Everyone is aware of that, not least because a long weekend is approaching. Easter is the focal point of the Christian faith, and the Gospels painstakingly detail its events.

Palm Sunday begins what is referred to as Holy or Passion Week. It marks Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem, and the start of some intense suffering, an agonizing death on a cross, and a culminating resurrection. Western society still takes stock of these events, although their impact appears to be waning.

I would hope that school children are being made aware of the significance of Easter. After all, it would not do to have them think of this date simply in terms of Eastern bunnies, Easter eggs and Easter bonnets. We would not wish to deprive them of a knowledge of the monumental event in the history of the West, one that has had formative influence in our society: its culture, laws, customs, etc. At minimum it serves as a more logical explanation for why we cease, for a long weekend, our economic, industrial, educational and political activities. It is doubtful school children would entertain for long the notion that the Easter bunny is responsible for that.

The Jesus of Palm Sunday and Easter did not portray a very striking figure. His "triumphal" ride into Jerusalem was on a donkey, no less a borrowed one at that. Such a "grand" arrival conveyed meekness and humility, more than power and dignity. It would be equivalent to driving a beat up Volkswagen to the Parliamentary buildings when a new session begins, rather than a stretch limousine. Donkeys and Volkswagens will get up there, but not with the expected pomp, status and image.

Some in Jesus' day caught the symbolism. The notion of kings riding on donkeys was not entirely foreign in those days. Most knew it symbolized a leader's closeness to his people. But Jesus chose it for yet another reason.

Jesus was hailed as the long-awaited Messiah. He was ushering

the Kingdom of God. But the palm wavers came to misunderstand what that meant, and were soon disappointed because he did not quickly turf out the despised Romans. The religious and political leaders of the people, on the other hand, fully understood the claim, and impact, of Jesus. But, they didn't believe he could pull it off.

You see, this humble donkey rider stated, both in his person and message, that God was doing something rather significant for

humanity. And, one ought never doubt God, nor the power of God. But that power was about to be exercised in a form we generally tend to resist. Its not the type of power exercised, for example, by the Coalition forces in the Persian Gulf, nor the power we often translate as "clout".

The power of God enacted through Jesus was one of gentleness, humbleness and long-suffering peace, almost a contradiction in terms. Pride, profits, violence

and terror - the power of yesterday and today's power brokers - will simply not do, in the long run. But neither will half-hearted worshipful pomp. Jesus also had a strong message for the religious leaders of his day, and for status quo Christians today.

God does not need ceremonial self-indulgence, military might nor large bank accounts. Much less does he need apathetic people, whose spirituality is twinged only in the rites of passage. Pageantry,

arrogance, self-centeredness and war machines are not the ways of God. God chooses the mundane, the ordinary and the humble - frequently the "donkey's" of this world - to bring in what is truly lasting.

Love, peace and self-sacrifice. That was difficult for the religious and political leaders of Jesus' day to accept. It's difficult for us to accept today. Small wonder that Easter is rapidly becoming an Easter bunny holiday.

E)

A day in the life of a Gay student

by Terry Richard

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be gay for a day? What exactly does a gay person do in a 24 hour time span? Do we eat, talk, sleep, work, go to school, and laugh like our heterosexual counterparts or are we some kind of alien life form ready to take over the world? Read the following and you'll find out all these answers and more.

9:30 Ah, time to get up and face the world. I tumble out of bed where my lover gets to spend a few more hours as he has the day off. Scurrying to the bathroom I shower and shave and take 15 minutes to comb my hair which looks like someone took dynamite to it. Going to the kitchen I feel our horny cat whose been in heat for the past 3 days and I attempt, and I mean attempt to make some breakfast.

9:55 It's almost time to leave so I eat my burnt eggs (I can't cook), grab my book bag, give my lover a good-bye kiss and run out the door.

10:05 Arriving at King's Place I wait for my bus. I wait, and wait, and wait until I learn that 16 South has already left. Those F---n' bus schedules! I grab a cab (Terry Richard never takes a cab because he's too cheap) since I have a major mid-term at 10:30.

10:30 Driving by the SUB I pay the driver a staggering \$5.75 (do you believe the price of taxis fares?) and hurry to Tilley Hall for my test.

10:35 Getting into class I realize I'm late so I nicely ask the prof for a copy of the test, sit down, and write it. Political Science of Brit-

ain: this is a bird course. I'll ace this no problem, but wait. The mid-term covers chapters 1 through 7 and I only studied 1-3. F---k! I guess it pays to go to more than 3 classes a month.

11:00 Math class. I love this course but my professor is so strange. I wish she'd get her teeth fixed because every time she talks her plates rattles as if they are going to fall out of her mouth. Boy, did she get a poor buy on those babes.

12:30 Time for lunch. I meet a few friends of mine at "Grand Central Station" a.k.a. "The Sub". Grabbing some fires we sit down to do our daily gossip bit. "Did you know that Kevin is sleeping behind Paul's back with Tony who recently broke up with Pierre who caught him in bed with Duke, a female bodybuilder?" Now this is gossip.

1:15 By this time I'm on my way to Marshall D'Avray Hall for my education classes. On my way out the door I run into a guy we all call the Goof because he has the I.Q. and personality of a cigarette butt. I tell him I'm in a hurry and run out the door.

1:30 Accounting Class. It's time to get our tests back. As the professor is calling out our names to go to his desk to get our mid-terms he comes to my name. As he says Terry Richard a code of silence fills the class as I stand up to get my test. I guess the class didn't know that I was the same Terry who writes the "Gay Forum" for the Bruns. Nah, nah, you've got a fag in your class.

2:30 Class

3:30 Finally it's time to go home. Going into the living room I call my new best friend to see how his day was and to tell him the saga of my hideous day.

4:30 By this time I'm starved, but my lover has cooked me a beautiful supper. See, having a live-in lover has more benefits than

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6:00 After the dishes are washed my lover and I sit down to discuss each others day, then the phone rings. Oh, it's my lovable grandmother. I do love talking to this woman but 5 minutes into the conversation I realize that this is going to be another quiz test as I attempt to explain to my grandmother why I am gay. I realize I haven't gotten anywhere when she says "I told you mother to breast feed you when you were a baby but oh no she wouldn't listen".

8:00 A few friends arrive. Tonight is "Knots Landing" night as we watch to see how crazy Valerie is getting.

9:30 After our friends leave I snuggle up to my lover after this hideous day. But I realize the day wasn't so bad. After all look who I'm ending it with. I think we'll be going to bed early tonight.

See, I bet you didn't know that a gay person's day wasn't that different from a heterosexual person's. Gay people, like anyone else, have days where we hate to get up, where we work, go to school, have dinner, talk, and have people who we share our lives with. The only difference lies in our sexual orientation, and that difference in itself is very small.

Next Week: Lesbianism

The next meeting of GALA will be held on Wednesday March 27, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 124 at Edmund Casey Hall at St. Thomas University.

The Brunswickan is looking for Spectrum writers.

Are you interested?

Come in and talk

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