

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

JUNE 6, 2022

Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new. Now it will spring forth. Will you not be aware of it? (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

Where there is life, there is change. Change was clearly present after Pentecost, but change is not always easy. Sometimes it has its challenges. No longer was it Jesus who was teaching and preaching in the Temple and the synagogues and on the hillsides. Now the apostles picked up that responsibility. Jesus was never arrested or jailed until the end of his life. That would not be true for the apostles. They were more vulnerable, perhaps because they did have such a great following of people. They did sometimes draw thousands to listen to them.

As the apostles went into the streets of Jerusalem and began to teach, they ran into opposition from the Temple officials. We find recorded: *As Peter and John were addressing the people, the priests, the chief of the Temple police, and some Sadducees came up, indignant that these upstart apostles were instructing the people and proclaiming that the resurrection from the dead had taken place in Jesus. They arrested them and threw them in jail until morning, for by now it was late in the evening. But many of them had already believed the Message – in round numbers about five thousand. (Acts 4:1-4)* Read the rest of the chapter to find out what happened to Peter and John.

The message that the apostles proclaimed was greatly upsetting to the Sadducees because they did not believe in the resurrection from the dead. They were in charge of the teaching of the Temple and they taught this theology to those who would listen to them. How inconvenient it was to their power and control of the teaching of the people that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead! They would continue to make it difficult for this teaching to continue. Fortunately, the power of the Holy Spirit within the followers of Jesus was greater than the human power of the Sadducees.

Paul would later write to Timothy, *“Proclaim the Message...just keep it simple.” (2 Timothy 4:2)*

The challenge remains for the Church in this day.

*Lord, may your Church remain faithful to proclaim a clear and simple Message.
Amen.*

Pastor

Louise