

“ He Lives ! ”

“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’ ” (Zechariah 13: 7-9)

As the church gears up in preparation to celebrate the Easter Holidays, we see the number of people attending church services rising. We that continue to attend each Sunday, know that this occurs year after year. We may find ourselves asking one another, “Why do these people even bother, if they only come one or two times each year, while we are so dedicated to coming week after week?” Maybe we are asking the wrong question and judging the wrong people.

Jesus knew this situation would exist after his trial, death and resurrection. There were those that came for the celebration of Passover and were excited while the festivities were going on, but fell away because they had no real roots in all that was taking place. So it is expected that once the party is over, the guests will all go home.

But what about the “disciples”? The “workers in the fields”? The ones claiming to be the “followers”?

Jesus reminded Peter (the rock) in Matthew 26: 31 at the end of the Passover Feast, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me.” Jesus then quoted the prediction given earlier by the Prophet Zechariah (13: 7-9).

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, this very night before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

Those that fell away did not stick around to see Jesus’ resurrection and to follow a “risen Savior”. Do we continue to live our lives as if we follow a “risen Savior” ?

“I serve a risen Savior, he’s in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he’s always near.”

“He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives ? He lives within my heart.”

(“He Lives” UMH pg. 310)
(words and music: Alfred Ackley, 1933)