

# “Easter Seeds”

Matthew 28:1-10 & 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

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**Prayer for Understanding** Loving God, nourish us with your word like you nourish the earth. Prepare our hearts and minds like you send the rain to water the earth making it fertile. May your word move us to do your will like the seeds you provide that become fruitful. Amen

**Matthew 28:1-10 NLT** “Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. The angel’s face shone like lightning, and clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw the angel, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. Jesus isn’t here! Jesus is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. Remember what I have told you.” The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to Jesus, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my disciples to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

The smallest and most expensive seeds we planted on our dairy farm was alfalfa. The seed cost around 2 dollars per pound, 100 dollars per bag. We planted 12 pounds of seed per acre. Every year we planted around 90 acres an investment of 2,160 dollars. Usually Alfalfa would survive for around 4 years yielding around 18 tons of silage per acre. We harvest around 1,600 tons, or 3.2 million pounds of alfalfa silage per year. It still fills me with awe that we harvested 144,000 pounds of silage from planting one 50-pound bag of alfalfa.

The plants that come from seeds are amazing, spectacular, probably beyond our imagination if we only ever saw the seeds and never the plants. The Apostle Paul explained that Easter, resurrection, is even grandeur than a seed transforming into a plant. **1 Corinthians 15:35-44 & 54-58 MSG** Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this 'resurrection body' look like?" If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a "dead" seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different. You will notice that the variety of bodies is stunning. Just as there are different kinds of seeds, there are different kinds of bodies—humans, animals, birds, fish—each unprecedented in its form. You get a hint at the diversity of resurrection glory by looking at the diversity of bodies not only on earth but in the skies—sun, moon, stars—all these varieties of beauty and brightness. And we're only looking at pre-resurrection "seeds"—who can imagine what the resurrection "plants" will be like! This image of planting a dead seed and raising a live plant is a mere sketch at best, but perhaps it will help in approaching the mystery of the resurrection body—but only if you keep in mind that when we're raised, we're raised for good, alive forever! The corpse that's planted is no beauty, but when it's raised, it's glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural—same seed, same body, but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality! In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true: Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now? It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

I have always been fascinated by trees. Hopefully you are seeing on your screen a Ponderosa Pine seed. On the farm our buildings were protected by two rows of Colorado Blue Spruce and one towering Ponderous Pine. From one

of its sturdy limbs hung a monkey swing providing me an abundance of glee. About 15 feet up was our tree house. As I got older, I climbed higher and higher enabling me to see for miles. Every time I hike, I marvel in the uniqueness of trees. The prophet Isaiah declares. **Isaiah 55:12 NRSV “For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”**

Acorns grow into oak trees. The York’s were blessed to have our friends take us to the Thomasville oak 332 years old, 164 feet wide and 68 feet high.

From this tiny seed comes the mighty, towering sequoia. Our family hiked through the sequoia forest filling me with joy, awe and wonder. The robust red bark, vibrant green needles and the black charred trunks. These hardy trees endure forest fires. General Sherman is 36 feet in diameter and 275 feet tall. Laying on the soft needles it seems you can climb these trees into space.

From a plain brown seed comes the mesmerizing vibrant colors of the Rainbow Eucalyptus tree. The fall colors of trees delight our eyes.

Trees in heaven will be immensely grandeur for we have only seen preresurrection trees. On earth everything and everyone are mere, plain, confined preresurrection seeds. Everything we see and experience will be immensely grandeur after resurrection.

Please spend some time today Easter imagining. Look at your favorite things and imagine them transformed by Easter resurrection. Your preferred smell more delightful. Your favorite sound more harmonious. Even the enormous grandeur of the evening sky is just a drab, dull pre resurrection seed.

Pope John Paul II describes the cross as the tree of life, a seed of the extreme transformation of Easter. God’s amazing grace gently removes from us all that diminishes life and enhances, glorifies and expands all that enhances life. The Apostle Paul wrote. **1 Corinthians 15:20 “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”** Life on earth is like gnawing on a twig that will be transformed into a honey crisp apple.

Please spend time imagining people transformed by Easter. All their faults, imperfections, mistakes gone. All their unique goodness set free to dazzle, sing, soar and delight. Love and joy will burst forth from each of us and unite all of us.

We are Easter people not bound by anything on earth. We have eternity in every cell. We will grow and flourish forever.

Please spend time imagining yourself transformed by Easter. Every tear wiped away by Jesus. Set free from all that weighs you down. Your deepest joy infinitely more abundant, your most comforting peace infinitely enhanced, your purest love infinitely more magnificent. Name the attributes that make you wonderful. Imagine each one transformed much, much more magnificent than a seed transformed into a thriving plant.

After your imagining talk to someone about Easter grandeur. Listen to them share their resurrection visions. As you share keep adding grandeur and grandeur aspects. Celebrate that God will do all of that and infinitely more. Scripture proclaims. **Ephesians 3:20 NLT “Now all glory to God, who is able, through God’s mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think, or imagine.”**

Easter the celebration that goodness, life, love and joy will expand for eternity. Amen.