



“WAKING UP TO A NEW WORLD”

BY PASTOR JOHN HILLMER

“Waking up to a new world”

The women woke up early that 1st Easter.

Real Early. “Before Dawn” early.

They were going to do what “needed to be done”. (to attend to WAK -hopes were dashed
-but --- difficult as it was --- they knew the drill; knew what they had to do.
(that’s what traditions and rituals are for)

But they came to the tomb,

and it was not as they expected.

It was WORSE than they expected!!

Earthquake! Lightning.

Storm-like shattering of the sealed tomb. –and it was EMPTY!

Waaa???? “Grave-robbers??!!

No Jesus - no Body - no way to do what they’d come to do.

Not what they expected!



The angel said: "NOT here". He is NOT.....Here!!

RISEN!

...as He said. JUST as He said.

And they were caught up with both FEAR and JOY.

This is my message for you:

(I know you came looking for one thing, but the reality is different.) (a whole new world)

Do not be afraid.

I know you came looking for Jesus.

He is not here. (come see for yourselves) He is risen – as he said.

But he IS going to Galilee. Tell the disciples, *said the angel*, that THERE, they WILL see him.

So here's the take-away.

They went looking for and *expecting* one world,
but what they found was another.

Instead of death	--	Life.
Instead of the end	--	The Beginning.
Instead of grief	--	JOY.

That's what we celebrate here!

What a MORNING! "The Resurrection of our Lord".

Music.

Rejoicing!

Affirmations!

Celebration!



Alleluias!!!

Lillies!

Flowers!

And that's a good thing.

But when the flowers wither & wilt.

When the music fades.

When the celebrations come to an end.

When the brokenness of this world breaks our spirit,
(and breaks your heart)

Stay open, and stay the course....

...because it is exactly THERE, where the risen Lord meets us.

And awakens us -- to a new world.

A whole new world.

Our faith doesn't just address the question "IS Christ Raised?"

...but "Are YOU raised?"

Because his love is FOR YOU.

His life is FOR YOU.

Not just in the "then & there" of an ancient book>
But in the "here and now".

Happy Easter!