Remembering Resurrection



A number of years ago, I was sitting in a Vineyard leadership meeting where the theological content of our worship songs was being discussed. At this meeting, there was a specific call from the theological community for new and relevant songs addressing the wider subject of the Cross. Many of our songwriters responded, myself included. As a result, over the next few years numerous new "Cross" songs were written, many of which have since taken root in the wider church and are still being sung to this day. But of course, this is only part of the story.

Here is a quick exercise. Build a typical Easter Sunday worship set list in your mind. How many songs deal with the Resurrection in a specific way? My guess is that your list is a little on the short side. This is an issue we ought to keep in the forefront of our hearts and minds as we prepare our worship sets, write our worship songs, or live our lives as worshippers. Are we singing mainly about the Cross, and running the risk of forgetting the rest of the story?

Dr. Peter Davids says in his article in this issue of Inside Worship, "*...the resurrection is not just a doctrine to be defended, a way to distinguish the orthodox from those who are not orthodox. The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our salvation (without it we are still in our sins)...*". This is no small matter.

Let's take a moment to reflect ways we might embrace a deeper understanding of the Resurrection in varying aspects of our life and ministry.

FOR SONGWRITERS

Meditate on the Resurrection. Let it seep out of our creative "pores" into our songs. Let us take on, as a personal challenge, the call to go to the Lord for fresh language and sounds expressing the truth and celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

We are charged with providing the language of worship for our congregations. Let us remember the Resurrection as we select songs for our congregations, especially in this Easter season. In addition to current and future songs addressing the topic of the Resurrection, remember that there are many great hymns of the faith that address this important truth. This may be a great opportunity to breathe new creative life into an historic Resurrection hymn.

FOR US AS WORSHIPERS

Let us make every effort to keep the Resurrection a primary focus in our worship lives. Let us live our lives not only in the shadow of the Cross, but also in the light of our new life in the Resurrection of Christ.

As we approach the Easter season, may the Holy Spirit help us to connect to the truth of the Resurrection in a renewed and life-changing way.

In His grip,

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