

Pastor T.C. Arnold  
The Resurrection of our Lord  
Matthew 28  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

*Grace Mercy and Peace be to your from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, who was condemned by men, crucified on a cross, placed in a tomb and who rose from the dead on this day of celebration. Dear beloved in Christ our Risen King...*

I'm one of those "increasingly" rare types that still likes to read the paper. I like articles and columns, I like to read the editorial opinions and say to myself, "that's wrong" (sometimes I say it out loud). I have a guilty pleasure of never missing out on the opportunity to read Dear Abby and Miss Manners. In a recent Miss Manners column a young woman writes that she likes to sit in her college classes and take off her shoes because it helps her to relax to let her feet breathe. Unfortunately, those who were in class with her and had to breathe themselves were having a tough time because her feet stank. She was embarrassed to find out that others were complaining about her stinky feet. To others, she would be known as the "stinky feet" girl. That might have been the way people identified her. Now, I bet you didn't expect to hear that story to start off a sermon on this blessed Easter morning.

Not everyone leaves a legacy one would want to be remembered by. If we leave a legacy we want it to be positive, of course. As far as Kings are concerned, almost all kings leave some kind of legacy, something they are remembered for. David, for example, was the great warrior king, who purchased the land for construction of God's temple. Solomon is remembered for his wisdom and for *building* the temple. Other "lesser known" kings in the Bible also had legacies. Jehu was a king of Israel who was called on by God to destroy the reign of evil King Ahab who killed the Lord's messengers. King Joash repaired the Temple that had been neglected for years. Josiah, the boy king, found the Book of the Law and put the law of God back into practice with the people. Great Kings leave legacies to be remembered.

But there was one King that left next to nothing and what he did leave, stank. His name was Adam. God created him as king – even though we don't often think of him in that way. God created Adam in His very own image and told him to "*Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*" Adam was a king. But the only stinking legacy that he left was death.

His work brought tombs and graves into the world, funeral homes and obituaries, sickness and disease, fear and anxiety – everything that stinks. Before the fall, Adam and Eve revered God with a holy fear. After they fell into sin by disobedience to the one command given to them by God, they were scared of Him and everything else. Because of them, the world was filled with sin and fear. Little boys would now be afraid of the dark. Teenage girls would live in fear of the gossip from friends that might ruin their reputation. Women now would fear the judgment of others more than the judgment of God. Men would fear conflict in a world where men needed to have courage, backbone, and self-sacrifice – and these fears overlap, each something we all fear. We fear others

and we fear death. Death consumes our conversations, the headlines in the newspaper, our very lives. This is what sin does – your sin stinks.

But God *loved* the king that left no legacy except stinking death. Adam blew it but God promised one day to send another. In Genesis, God calls Him, “The Seed.” A royal Seed, He is. His only-begotten Son, God in the flesh. Sometimes we call this Royal Seed King the “second” Adam. He is new and improved. Much improved actually. He’s perfect. The Second Adam is Jesus, the Seed of God, yet also man who took the legacy of death handed down by Adam and turned it into life through His own horrible death – taking all of your sins to the cross.

Today, Adam’s legacy is still death for mankind. And as sons and daughters of Adam, as human beings, we know death. We know the sting of death – others have inflicted that sting on us. You have felt that pain – that sting. You, with what you have said, with what you have done sting others. The result of that sting is death and it hurts. Death stinks. It’s not just our feet. Sometimes it’s our hands with what we do. Sometimes it’s our breath with what we say. The legacy of King Adam still lives with you and me. We know it and see it all around us. We all are the perpetrators of the legacy of death. That’s what really stinks.

But did you notice the feet of Jesus in the Gospel text? They were beautiful enough for His disciples to kneel down and clasp with their hands – hanging on for dear life, like a child to his mother. Beautiful feet Jesus had, though marked up by the scars of the crucifixion on Friday. Beautiful feet that would carry Him to instruct those who knew not of the Kingdom and even to take Him to heal the sick and raise the dead. The beautiful feet of Jesus would carry forth a legacy of feeding the hungry and giving the blind their sight. They would know their King and His beautiful feet from that time forth as feet that do not die but rather have the legacy of life.

The Legacy of Christ Our King is life. So today, our eyes go from that wretched tree on Calvary’s Holy Mount to the tomb that is no longer sealed. The tomb is opened and the King is raised. And, by virtue of what we don’t see when we look into that open and empty tomb, we now have the greatest legacy of a King we call our own and who now calls us His own. That empty tomb means death has lost. Death’s power is empty. Life brakes forth from death – it bursts through the darkness. A glorious legacy is ours through Christ’s victory on Easter.

That legacy, beloved in the Lord, is carried forth from the feet of Jesus through the feet of each and every one of us in the Words and deeds we share with the nations. When we utter that **Christ is Risen!** our feet carry forth the legacy of life won by our Jesus. Our feet stink. The feet we bow toward today do not. Those feet took Jesus to the cross of life. Those feet took Jesus out of the grave. Being raised to life by His undeserved grace through faith – that is your legacy. A blessed Day of Resurrection to all. The King lives. So do you! Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.