

From the Pulpit

Excerpts from messages being presented at area places of worship this weekend.

Rabbi Mordechai Levin, Beth El Synagogue, Omaha

The commandment to honor parents is one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12): "Honor your father and mother."

To honor parents does not mean that we have to obey everything they say. For instance, even if parents object to their child's prospective spouse, they cannot take away his or her right to marry that person.

However, when the child disagrees with a parent, the dignity of and respect for the parents must be maintained.



Levin

Adult children are required to take care of their elderly parents, seeing to it that their needs are met. Sometimes, however, this is not possible, as in the case of parents who need considerable care but whose children live far away.

If children cannot realistically care for their parents, then moving them to an assisted-living residence is not only permissible but possibly the most desirable solution, provided that this arrangement is made with honor, respect and ideally, even love.

The Hebrew Bible commands: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18); "Love the stranger as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34); and "Love God with all your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:5), but it does not command us to love our parents. It commands that we honor them. It recognizes that there are people who, for different reasons, do not love their parents, but whether or not we love our parents is beside the point.

Although mothers and fathers fulfill their parental responsibilities with varying degrees of skill and love, Jewish values state that they are to be treated with honor and respect.

Arnold J. Bateman, Stake President, Lincoln Nebraska Stake, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

On Sunday, April 24, throughout all of Christendom, people will commemorate the victory of Jesus Christ over death.

In Luke, Chapter 24, we read: "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they

came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

The empty tomb that first Easter morning was the answer to Job's question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Easter is a special time when the heart of each devout Christian turns in gratitude to the Savior. It is a time that should bring peace and joy to all who love Him. Easter brings thoughts of Jesus, His life, His Atonement, His Resurrection and His love.

Jesus Christ said: "I am the resurrection, and the life." (John 11:25) "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27).

The Rev. Dan Delzell, Wellspring Lutheran Church, Papillion

Which will you choose this Easter – religion, or the resurrection of Christ? Religion is a very popular option. It requires no faith that Jesus raised Himself from the dead. It usually sits well with people of any faith or no faith. It's generic and it's fast, and it allows you to get a check in the box.



Delzell

Easter worship service, check.

On the other hand, you may choose to celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ truly rose from the dead for you and for all sinners. If you embrace this approach, it won't please everyone. It will feel exclusive because of what Jesus said about Himself and the narrow road to heaven.

It won't seem as neat and tidy as religion. In fact, Good Friday will get downright messy. If you are looking for a check in the box, then Plan A is for you. If you desire a life-changing relationship with God that lasts forever, then Plan B is the way to go.

You may choose to put a religious Band-Aid on your spiritual wounds this Easter, or instead ask the Lord to perform surgery on your soul and get down to the root problem of your sin with His eternal remedy. The choice is yours.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25,26) Since you're not getting any younger, why not go with Plan B this Easter as you choose to trust Christ in life and in death? You'll be glad you did!