

JUST PEDAL

[This sermon followed a readers' theatre that frequently used rocks as an analogy]

That was one "Rocking" readers' theatre.
They presented "solid" highlights of the Gospel message.

They were lessons that we have heard all before.
As it states in verse 36, of our text, "You know the message."

We know the Easter story; we know the details about Jesus' resurrection, and we **should** be familiar with what it means.

As the readers stated, the forces of evil lost.
Those who tried to defeat Jesus -- he's way and message did NOT win.
They couldn't kill the message, and they couldn't keep Jesus down.

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We celebrate and proclaim the amazing resurrection of Jesus, and...  
when we allow ourselves to fully encounter the Easter Message, we become living witnesses to it.  
We become resurrection people.

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Resurrection people are those who embrace / take hold of and become the living Christ.

Resurrection people proclaim the way of Peace, as Jesus did.
They are gracious and loving, andwith great humility, they / WE realize that it is a life a second chances.
From the nadir of hopelessness, there is a New life / a new way / a better way to live.

From despair and death, from the ashes the Phoenix rises.

There is hope. The presumed end is Not the end.
The story isn't finished yet.
From failure to success is the vision of those who own the resurrection.
To be sure, not as the secular world measures success, but rather it is a success that lives by giving life.....by creating and loving as God has shown us the way through Jesus.

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Resurrection people are NOT those who merely know "the way".  
Resurrection people, by the power of God's Spirit, live the way of Christ.

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I think too often, we excessively focus on the detail / on the theology, as if we need to be correct,....as if getting it right is life giving.

Just as we can Not possess love by only defining it or analyzing it, we **cannot** learn to live by dwelling solely on the theology.

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It is somewhat like learning to ride a bike.

To breeze down the road on a bicycle is truly a wonderful experience.

As child, I thought it felt like I was flying.

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Remember when you learned to ride a bike?

I do.

Before you got on the bike to learn how to ride it, did you first study the manual.

Did all the explanations convince you that it was a safe and good thing to do? Was the logic correct?

Was it clear and certain?

Did you spend classroom time memorizing the dynamics?

Balancing on two wheels **is** a marvel of physics.

Of course, the rider adjusts the front wheel / the steering wheel in order to keep the centre of mass over the wheels, but there is much more to it than that.

Did you study and understand the gyroscopic effect, before you tried to ride the bike?

The gyroscopic effect is the balancing force created by the spinning wheels, and that combined with the mass distribution provides some vertical stability. Both are affected by the longitudinal acceleration, which can also enhance balance. The forward force of movement and the spinning wheels aid in keeping the bike balanced / from falling over.

No doubt, you studied how to change directions / how to turn.

Turning requires leaning into the turn, and more leaning is required with greater speed or a tighter turn.

Leaning uses gravitational force to counter the centrifugal force caused by altering the direction of motion.

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Did you learn all the physics before you tried to ride a bike?

And, did your first failure / your first fall dissuade you from trying again,....as if the whole process was doomed and a lie?

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My sister taught me how to ride a bike, and she didn't mention anything about physics.....or theology.

She held onto me, as I tried to keep balance.

She ran alongside of me, holding me.

Then, she ran alongside of me, while only holding the bike seat.

And, I could feel the power of her presence that kept me from falling down.

*Consider this process and compare it to how we teach others about how to live / how to live the way of Christ.*

*Maybe we need to do more holding on and running alongside. ??*

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Finally, when my sister thought I was ready, as she was running next to me,she let go.

I could feel the absence of her grip,..... and I yelled, "Don't let go!"

She yelled back, "Just keep pedalling!"

Just keep pedalling.

All the invisible physical forces will come into play, when we just keep pedalling.

The invisible power of God's Spirit works much in the same way,... when we keep pedalling.

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Suddenly, I was riding a bicycle down the street,..... and just as suddenly,.....I ran into a parked car.

Hey,.....nobody said life would be easy.

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We are resurrection people.

We rise again, and with the power of God's Spirit,.....we keep going.