Quotes for Possible Easter Reflections -- A Few of Many Possible Points of View  
Seekers, April 12, 2020  
(Most of the following, unless otherwise indicated, are quotes from  
 *Resurrection: Myth or Reality?* by Bishop John Shelby Spong)

“[W]e are regenerated, not so much by the death of Christ, as by his life in our hearts.” Brinton, 42

“Perhaps we need to be reminded that our ultimate goal is not objectivity, certainty, or rational truth. It is rather life, wholeness, heightened consciousness, and an expanded sense of transcendence.” Spong, 100

“When we commune with the limitless, the eternal, the ultimately real one, we share in those aspects of that reality with which our hearts and minds are bound. If one does that completely enough it could well be said of that one that his life had been incorporated into God at the moment of his death. If Jesus of Nazareth provided us with the means by which we can walk on his path into the same destiny, then it is easy to understand why some would claim that they heard him say, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me”; or “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live.”” Spong, 292

Spong says of the early Christian community that wrote the Gospels, “the meaning of Jesus is what drove them to write the narratives in the first place.” Spong, 183

“God was met in Jesus.” Spong, 143

“The people of the ancient world literally, seriously believed that miracles happened. . . . Apollonius performs them. Others perform them. Why not Jesus? The point is that the story is more than just the expectation that it could happen, or that it did happen. It's a statement about their belief in the person who they say made it happen. . . . And that's how we have to look at miracle stories in the gospels.” Lecture, L. Michael White, Harvard University (1998)

“I think Easter is real, but it is not an event that takes place inside human history. It is ultimately the revelation of who God is, seen through the lens of Jesus by those of us who do live inside history. Easter becomes for us a timeless invitation to enter the meaning of God by living for others, expecting no reward, loving wastefully no matter what the cost. When we do that, we are Easter people and resurrection becomes real.” Spong, 143

“Be compassionate as God is compassionate.” (Luke 6:36)

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Someone began to suggest that the way he died was exactly like the way he lived. He gave his life to others and for others. He loved wastefully and selflessly. In that living and dying this dawning insight suggested that Jesus revealed the meaning of God. God is not victory, their point of view stated. God is the presence of transcendent meaning in the midst of human defeat. God is not eternal life. God is the presence of an indestructible meaning in the face of very real death.” Spong, 142

“Yes to Jesus – my primary window into God;

Yes to resurrection – which asserts that the essence of Jesus is the essence of a living God;

Yes to life after death – because one who has entered a relationship with God has entered the timelessness of God.” Spong, 292

(Note: Most of this document is Times New Roman 14; if you would like it to be on one page, that will occur if the font size is changed to 12 -- and the “OVER” with page break and this note removed.)