

They say there's a way you can tell what number baby parents are holding in their arms--first, second third? Parents, you can tell me if this is right. The test is to observe what parents do when the baby drops its pacifier. If it's the first baby, they rush to get a new pacifier. If it's the second baby, they rinse it off in warm water. If it's the third baby, they rub it on their sleeve, and if it's the fourth baby, they just put it back in its mouth.

It seems to me the longer people experience parenthood, the better they're able to put things in perspective. Some things that bug them early on just don't matter after a while.

I truly think the reason Jesus rose from the dead was to help us put things in perspective. Not to feel so up-tight about life. We regain our perspective in different ways: A good conversation with a friend might open up our minds, reading a good book can do the same, taking time to smell the flowers, or, sadly, experiencing some tragedy.

Think for a minute about the miracle of Easter. First we believe there is a God. Then we believe this God created the world and sustains it in love. Then we believe that this God became human, so human he even died. Don't get much more human than that. But then, being God, he conquered death, and rose from the dead. But even that isn't the miracle of Easter. The miracle of Easter is the promise that we will rise too. That should put things in perspective. Eternal life is a much bigger deal than our little problems.

~~I don't want to put down family problems because I know that little things can cause huge headaches for people. But as often as I hear people say they wish they could overcome impatience, the more I want to urge them to put things in perspective.~~ ^{Don't you think we need some} Don't you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Don't you believe that eternal life is ours? Why do we quibble over little things?

If we want to grow impatient, there are other matters which deserve our attention: crime, racism, illiteracy, poverty--in our neighborhood and throughout the world. There's a bigger perspective we could attend to. That's the message of Easter.

If you need help putting life in its proper perspective I urge you to keep your faith alive. Come to church, say your prayers, live a life according to the Gospel. Meditate on the miracle of Easter and so it may live in all our lives.