

# THE RESURRECTION SPEAKS

## Luke 24:1-12

Your dearest friend has recently died! But not in a normal way of aging. You have watched him being mercilessly beaten, flogged and then crucified on a cross outside of Jerusalem. The sights and sounds of that Friday still reverberate in your soul. The sounds and smells and the agony of watching your dearest friend being put to death for crimes he didn't commit. That is in part the sobering reality of three women that came to the tomb that first Easter Morning.

Jesus had been whipped mercilessly, and he has been beaten beyond recognition. His back has been laid open in such a fashion, that the very skin has been ripped from his body. But not only has he been whipped for crimes he didn't commit...he has been placed on a cross outside of Jerusalem and it was there that Jesus was crucified and bowed his head and died.

These women watched it...they saw Jesus as he died. They watched the soldiers walk up to his body desiring to break his legs...but he was already dead. They watched as a soldier took a spear and plunged it into the very side of Jesus and water and blood came flowing from his side. The only question in their mind at this point is this, "Who will move the stone?" Who among these three women is strong enough to move a stone so they can tenderly embalm their precious friend...with spices so that the body will be cared for in the proper way. After all, they knew for a fact that Jesus is dead! But instead...their world is altered within minutes...as they see something they never believed... 1 empty tomb, 2 angels sitting where the body of Jesus "had laid". No doubt they looked, and looked again...and attempted to soak in "the message of Jesus resurrection". With all they witnessed...they never expected to see an empty tomb. What does the resurrection say? What does it declare not only then but for all mankind?

### 1. THE RESURRECTION SPEAKS...OF THE OVERWHELMING LOVE OF GOD FOR MANKIND.

In all the human vocabulary there is no word that compares to the word "love". Yet to say "love" is one thing, to demonstrate it is another thing all together. Yet, that is the message of the resurrection. It is the message that God Almighty loves us, and He will do everything that is necessary in order that we can have a relationship with Him. It was man that sinned against God. It was man that rebelled against God! It was and is man that chooses regularly to violate the laws and the rules that God has established for life and living. Yet, in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus...God declares to every soul on the face of the earth these words, "I love you and I will pay the greatest prices to have a relationship with you". The very outflow of the nature of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is to pursue us in love. Why? Because that is what holy, pure, sinless love always does.

God never loves us because we are good, but in spite of our wickedness. *Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* You will never understand for all of eternity "how much" God loves you, but that is the message of the cross and resurrection. None of us deserve the love of God...but that is the magnitude of God's love. The greatness of God's love for you...is found at the cross and resurrection of Jesus. When you don't love yourself...God loves you. When you don't feel like you are worth anything...remember God gave up His Son for you.

### 2. THE RESURRECTIONS SPEAKS...OF FORGIVENESS OF ALL OUR SINS.

Have you ever come to the sobering reality of your "real human nature"? Have you come to realize that you were born into the world a "sinner". The Bible declares in Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; The truth is, you didn't have to do anything to be a "sinner"

Our parents, grandparents, greatgrandparents...all the way back to Adam are under sin. Adam is the one that sold all mankind under sin. And the sobering reality of sin declared in Ezekiel 18:4 "...The soul that sinneth, it shall die. You don't do anything to be a sinner by nature...because that is our default nature. What is

so bad about being a sinner? Holy God declares that every sinner is “condemned”. Imagine this hanging over your head...at the end of life you will be “condemned”. No matter what you may do or attempt to do in your life...at the end you will be condemned unless someone pays for your sins. That is exactly what Jesus did. In His death and resurrection...He speaks to you and me that we can have “all our sins forgiven”. Not because we deserve it, but because of who He is, and what He has done.

Imagine the thought...no matter how bad you have been, what you have done, where you have walked in your life...there is someone that has taken ALL YOUR SINS on Himself, and died for them, and rose again. THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTION. Paul the apostle said it this way in 1 Corinthians 15:17, “And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are in your sins.” Paul was the most notorious persecutor of the church...until he came into contact with the “love and forgiveness of Christ”. The resurrection is the message that “ABSOLUTELY ALL OUR SINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY ONE PERSON...JESUS CHRIST”. You may attempt your best to be the best person that you can...but all is hopeless apart from Jesus perfect sacrifice in our place.

### 3. THE RESURRECTION SPEAKS...OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HOPELESSNESS.

Lets backup for a moment and review the events leading up to the resurrection. On Friday before the resurrection...Jesus is crucified. Prior to crucifixion, Jesus is betrayed by Judas Iscariot. The chief priest and religious leaders want Jesus dead. Jesus is beaten beyond recognition and is sentenced to die. The wicked soldiers are delighted to rip and tear at the very body of Jesus with their ruthless means of torture prior to death. The disciples had placed all their hopes and their dreams in this Jesus. They thought He was the One that was going to restore Israel. The heart of the disciples sank as they knew of Jesus crucifixion. The heart of Jesus mother is burdened to the point of death. All is hopeless...their “hopes” in Jesus are dashed to shreds at the sign of his death “it appears”. Jesus death on the cross makes it “final”. No more Jesus, no more hope. No more seeing his miraculous power. No more seeing His wonders. No more seeing, Him heal the sick, raise the dead. Their lives are bowed low in “hopeless despair” as they watch the very life of Jesus ebb away. What difference three days makes.

In three days...when all seemed to be lost...and utter hopelessness filled their heart...they realized the most amazing truth...and that truth has reverberated through centuries...when all seems lost, when all seems hopeless, when there seems to be no hope...Jesus is hope in the midst of hopelessness...because anyone that has power over death. WHAT A DIFFERENCE THREE DAYS MAKES! Jerusalem is ablaze with news that Jesus is gone from the tomb. But why is He no longer in the tomb. Listen to Jesus words Himself, “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

When the disciples heard it, it sounded like a “fairy tale” to the men to the point they didn’t believe it. But the wonder of God, the divine truth of Scripture, backed by the very flawless Word of God is this...Jesus is alive...and Jesus will give life to all who will believe. The message of Easter is this message...ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS HAVE LIFE ETERNAL.

### 4. THE RESURRECTION SPEAKS...OF ONE WHO HAS POWER OVER DEATH.

If I asked you if you heard about the resurrection of Mohammed? Napoleon? George Washington? Abraham Lincoln? You would say that was “absurd” and you would be right for all of these men...their bodies remain in the grave. But the sobering truth accompanied with each of their death is this...you don’t even expect them to rise from the dead. We can name who we will, president, emperor, or any famous person...and there is not even the slightest thought that they have power over the dead. Yet, the resurrection of Jesus Christ says this simple and most profound truth...THERE IS ONE WHO HAS POWER OVER DEATH...AND HIS NAME IS JESUS. What makes His resurrection so significant? Listen to His very words. **John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.** Simply put...if you place your faith in Jesus Christ...there will come to your life the very power of God in Christ...and someday He will raise you up...but only if you believe.

You can name who you will...but you can never name a person that has POWER OVER DEATH. That is the message of Easter. It is a message that resounds through the centuries. It is the single greatest message of history...for it is the truth of God to all who will turn to Christ and believe.

## **5. THE RESURRECTION SPEAKS...OF AN EVENT THAT WILL BE UNLIKE ANY IN HISTORY...THE RAISING TO LIFE ALL WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LORD.**

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ...we are given a preview of a coming attraction that will stagger the universe. The Bible says in Matthew 27:52 (LB) “And tombs opened, and many godly men and women came back to life AGAIN. Imagine the scene...these sainted people who had died from some sickness, disease, tragedy, came back to life...but that is what resurrection is. How long had these saints been dead? The Bible doesn’t say. How many of them were there? The Bible doesn’t say. But it simply declares...at the death of Jesus, when the curtain in the temple was split that there was an earthquake, and saints “rose from the dead”. That is a preview of what is going to happen all over the world some day in God’s economy.

You and I may go down in death...but there is going to be a glorious day, a “getting up day”. There is going to be a “resurrection day”, a “coming back to life”. You may go down in death...but you are coming out of that grave...if you die...to a new glorified body. Paul said it this way, “For if we believe that Jesus rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:15-18) THE WONDERFUL FACT OF ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS IS THIS...WE LIVE FOR ALL ETERNITY. WE HAVE A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH AWAITING US...ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS RESURRECTION. The sobering question that you must answer is this....will you be a part of “the resurrection of the righteous”, the “resurrection of the redeemed” or the resurrection of the condemned. Wouldn’t it be horrible to have attended Easter service after Easter service year after year...and never to be a part of what Easter is all about...namely the resurrection of true believers.