

Living the Resurrection

John 20:19-31

4/12/09

Intro

This is the most important day on the calendar, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the day that Jesus triumphed over sin and death and won for us our victory over sin and death.

As the old hymn goes, “Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes! He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

The resurrection is the most important event in history. But it’s more than just an event; it has application to every one of us. The title of the message is called, “Living the Resurrection” because it is an event that applies to every one of us today. We don’t just believe, we live because we believe.

Here are some important insights in living the resurrection.

I. We are Blessed in Believing

- 1 This theme runs through the scriptures; that God wants us to believe what he said.
- 2 There were many times when the Lord admonished the disciples for having little faith.

A. God wants you to walk by faith

- 1 When Jesus appeared to His disciples, Thomas was not there. When he heard what had happened, he refused to believe unless he placed his hands into Jesus’ wounds.

Illus – If we had just one word to describe the disciples, some would be easy. Peter, John, Judas, and Thomas.

- 2 So when Jesus appeared again, He invited Thomas to touch His hands and His side and then said to him...

John 20:29, Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

- 3 Faith is essential to our salvation because we must believe in what God has done for us in Christ.

Romans 10:8-9, But what does it say? “The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your

heart”-- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

B. God blesses the heart that has faith

1 Imagine the disciples in the days immediately after the crucifixion. Imagine the hopelessness and confusion they had.

2 **But then, they began to believe and in believing, they began to be changed.**

Matthew 26:69-70, Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

1 But after the resurrection, Peter was changed. In believing he became a man of faith and boldness.

Acts 2:14, But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.”

2 **Peter is filled with confidence in knowing the power of God.**

3 There is a powerful change that comes with believing that impacts our living...

Illus – When I was a student at Multnomah Bible College, I took a class where we discussed the resurrection – it changed my life because of the effect it had on my faith.

Illus – What happened to Jesus’ body? Matthew 28:13

Illus – And he is the only one who was raised from the dead. Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, they are all still in the grave.

II. His Death is Our Life

1 The resurrection of Jesus means that we can be born again. It means that we can now have life.

A. In believing we have life

Illus – Many people are trying to “find themselves,” but unless we find ourselves in God, we are still lost.

Guys have the reputation of not asking directions, but admitting we’re lost is the first step in finding our way. Then we came up with the perfect solution; GPS

gadgets. But the bible is higher still.

If I know who God is and who I am in God; all the major questions in life have been answered.

- **The simplest verse in the whole bible – John 3:16 --whoever believes will have life.**
- The apostle John wrote his gospel so we would believe – and have life....

John 20:31, but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- 1 Jesus Himself gave us the promise of Life in His name...

John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 11:25-26, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

B. In believing we have relationship

- 1 We were separated from God – without hope and without God in this world.
- 2 That was the reason He did all this – so you and I could have a relationship to God.

Illus -- When Jesus fixed His eyes on Peter, he ran and wept...

Luke 22:54-62 The Lord looked at Peter

- 1 This should remind us even of the first time that Peter met Jesus.

Luke 5:7-8, And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

- 2 What a contrast that we can now fix our eyes on Jesus because of the forgiveness of our sin.

Hebrews 12:2-3, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- 1 **What joy?** The joy of the cross? That wasn't joy.
- 2 The joy of establishing a new holiday with bunnies and chocolate and marshmallow eggs? I doubt that brings much joy.

Illus – The joy that was set before Him was the joy in knowing that he was about to fulfill the purpose for which he came to this earth; to make a way for us to have a relationship with God whereas we could never have had one before.

III. We are Filled Because the Tomb is Empty

A. He satisfies the empty soul

**Psalm 107:9, For He has □□satisfied the □□thirsty soul,
And the □□hungry soul He has filled with what is good.**

- 1 **Peter was empty because he had betrayed the Lord and his soul was only filled with anguish.**

Illus – Later, when Jesus appeared at the Sea of Galilee, Peter jumped in the water to be near the Lord.

John 21:7, Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

- 1 It was the opposite of what he did the first time he met Jesus.
- 2 Peter knows he is a sinner in both stories, but he has learned that where he needs to be is as close to Jesus as he can be.

B. He fills us with purpose

- 1 **Jesus restored Peter to close relationship first.**
- 2 But then, He filled him with purpose – feed my sheep.

App -- God does the same with us.

- 3 **First, he brings us into a place of right relationship, and then he fills us with purpose.**
- 4 **God is calling us to live with purpose, we are to live for something much higher than ourselves; we are to live for Him.**

Illus – God is changing people and the most significant thing we can do in this world is to make a difference in someone’s life.

II Corinthians 5:14-15, For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Conclusion

The resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the most important event in history, but it’s also the most personal. He had you and me in mind when He went toward the cross. It’s personal for Him, too. This is love; that He laid down His life for us, that we might have life eternal.