

## What Difference Does the Resurrection Make?

Luke 23: 26- 24:12

4/15/01

### Intro

➤ He is Risen!!

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**On Feb. 27, 1991**, at the height of Desert Storm, Ruth Dillow received a very sad message from the Pentagon. Her son, Clayton Carpenter, Private 1st Class, had stepped on a mine in the Persian Gulf & was dead.

Ruth Dillow wrote, "I can't begin to describe my grief & shock. It was almost more than I could bear. For 3 days I wept. For 3 days I expressed anger & loss. For 3 days people tried to comfort me, to no avail because the loss was too great." But after three days she received a phone call...

It's a perfect illustration of what the disciples must have felt when they discovered that Jesus was alive!!

Can you imagine the difference this made to Ruth Dillow? Even more so to the disciples.

I Corinthians 15: 1-11

I Corinthians 15: 51-52 We will be changed.

The resurrection is about change.

### **I. The Cross Has Been Changed.**

Vs 23:26-49

A. From an instrument of horrible death.

- It was so terrible that Roman citizens were not allowed to be crucified.

B. To a beautiful replica as a piece of jewelry, a thing of beauty.

- Now it has become a symbol of hope.
- A reminder of how much God loves us. (Romans 5:8)

### **II. The Tomb Has Been Changed.**

Vs 23:50-24:12

A. The grave has been looked at as the final chapter, the end.

- But because of the resurrection, that is where life really begins
- And will never end.

B. Because the tomb has been changed, our perspective is changed.

Vs

- It changes our earthly perspective to a godly one.
- Before, all we could hope for was material, earthly.
- Now, all those things seem so unimportant when compared to the godly, the eternal.

**Illus- In the book, Portraits of Perseverance, Henry Garrity writes of a man named Carl who was a very rich man and**

who owned a great estate. One of his favorite pastimes was riding horseback through his valley, looking at everything he owned & congratulating himself on his great wealth.

One day, as Carl was riding along, he came up over a hill & in the distance saw one of his tenant farmers, an old man named Hans. It was lunch time, & Hans had set a little table under a shade tree & was getting ready to eat. But before he ate, he bowed his head & folded his hands in prayer to thank God for his food.

### III. Time Has Changed.

A. Before, time was limited.

- The scripture says we have the breath of life in our nostril and then we're gone.

**Illus – Sometimes, I look in the mirror, and think, *My goodness, I'm looking old, maybe if I get a good night's sleep, I'll look better in the morning. Then a still small inside me says... not!***

B. But because of the resurrection, old things pass away, all things become new. (II Cor 5: 17)

C. Our whole purpose and meaning has changed in light of eternity.

### IV. Life Has Changed.

A. In the world, there is despair and brokenness.

- There is so much pain and hurt because of the brokenness of our lives.

B. But Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly."

C. Because of the resurrection, we now have access to an authentic relationship to God Himself.

- Therefore the Spirit of God can come in and change us from within.

### Illus – Chuck Smith and the hippies in the church.

#### Conclusion

- **It's about change.**
- **Have you been changed by the resurrection?**
- **What difference has it made to you?**
- **It's not enough to know about it, to acknowledge the truth of it.**
- **It must be applied.**
- **It's about Jesus having the victory over death, choose Jesus and choose life.**