

What Does the Resurrection of Jesus Mean to Us?  
April 16, 2017

**Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

## **I. What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to me?**

### **A. The question for most of us this morning is not whether or not Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, but what does His resurrection mean for me?**

1. Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead merely a theological fact I accept by faith as one of many, like the healing of a blind man or the feeding of 5000 with a little bread and a few fish? Or does the resurrection have a practical application to my experience of Christ as a Christian in this world?
2. Is the resurrection simply sound doctrine I choose to believe because I call myself Christian or does the resurrection have an effect on my heart, on the way I think, or love, or live?
3. What does the resurrection mean to me?
  - a. Both believers and unbelievers are willing to point out that, along with His crucifixion, the resurrection of Jesus is central to the Christian faith.
  - b. The importance and centrality of the resurrection as a Christian doctrine are well recognized
  - c. But the question remains, what does the resurrection mean for each of us personally?

### **B. Three practical, personal effects of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**

## **II. The resurrection of Jesus masters fear of death in the human heart**

### **A. What is the number one human fear?**

1. I wanted to make the point that the most common fear among human beings was the fear of death and the unknown, the fear of standing before God and having to give an account of their lives, their sin, and their lack of faith in Jesus

2. but according to numerous sources, the fear of public speaking is number one and fear of death is only five or six.
3. This probably reflects a sad change in our cultural spiritual cognizance.
  - a. People don't know enough about God and His word to be afraid anymore.
  - b. Sad for two reasons
    - (1) Sad because lost people without fear are in for a big surprise!
    - (2) Sad because many lost people without fear have no fear because they have not heard the truth about God, themselves, and the Lord Jesus Christ
      - (a) And they have not heard or believed because we have not told them
      - (b) **Romans 10:14 (ESV)** *<sup>14</sup>How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

## **B. The resurrection of Jesus Christ masters the fear of death in the human heart**

1. **Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV)** *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
  - a. Jesus, the Son of God, became a man and genuinely experienced life on a human level
  - b. He also experienced death on a human level and for the same reason humans experience death: sin.
    - (1) The wages of sin is death
    - (2) The just penalty for personal rebellion against God and His creative purpose for each of us is death
      - (a) Jesus, innocent of any sin, suffered death as we do, but not for His own sin.
      - (b) Jesus died and took the penalty of our sins!
  - c. Jesus's death on the cross satisfies God's just and righteous and holy requirement that human sin, rebellion against Him and His plan for our lives, be punished.
2. Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that those who submit to God and His loving plan for their life, those who through faith in Christ find forgiveness of sin, will gain through Him a resurrection of their own
  - a. **John 3:16 (ESV)** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
  - b. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proves

- (1) God's intent to keep His promise
- (2) God's power to forgive
- (3) God's mastery over the fear of death.

### III. The resurrection of Jesus multiplies hope among the people of faith

#### A. Walter Maier,

1. preaching on Resurrection Sunday in 1940
2. called the resurrection of Jesus "the great climax truth of our faith, the necessary keystone in the arch of our hope."

#### B. **1 Corinthians 15:14-18 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.* <sup>15</sup> *We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.* <sup>16</sup> *For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.* <sup>17</sup> *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.* <sup>18</sup> *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

1. No resurrection, no redemption
  - a. Redemption for sin requires a sinless, blameless sacrifice
  - b. When there is any sin, no matter how small, there is great guilt, and where there is sin, there is only death.
  - c. The resurrection of Jesus, Christ's victory over death, declares
    - (1) Christ completely innocent of sin
    - (2) his death able to be a substitute for us, since he had no sin of his own demanding death.
  - d. Without the resurrection, we have no hope of redemption because we cannot hope to pay for our own sin.
2. No open grave, no opened heaven.
  - a. Without the resurrection of Jesus, those who have died, despite their faith, would just be dead.
  - b. Sinful cannot inherit the kingdom of God
    - (1) **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*
    - (2) **1 Corinthians 15:50 (ESV)** <sup>50</sup> *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*
      - (a) Not only must we put off sin to enter the kingdom
      - (b) We also need an immortal body, a glorified body, a resurrection body
  - c. Only if Christ is raised from the dead, and only through faith in Him can sins be forgiven and heaven opened to sinners.
3. No risen Christ, no risen Christians.
  - a. If Christ is not raised from the dead, then he is a liar and all our

faith is in vain.

- b. Jesus said <sup>1</sup> *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

- (1) A dead Christ who does not live has died for his own sin and cannot save others, he cannot return
- (2) Furthermore, a dead Christ cannot give life and Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.”
- (3) Our hold on this life is lessened, and our willingness to spend this life for Christ is maximized when we realize that in Christ we have life beyond death, not only in spirit but in body one day.

#### **IV. The resurrection of Jesus magnifies the glory of God among unbelievers**

##### **A. God’s mission in the world, declared and illustrated in His word is this: to “fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”**

1. God interest is that every human experience, every human condition, every human situation reveal the immensity and beauty of His personal perfections
2. God in all His glory is the greatest, highest, most worthy, and beautiful Person that exists.
  - a. He is the Creator of life and the Sustainer of life
  - b. He is love and joy and peace and righteousness and holiness,
  - c. He is all these things perfectly and continuously and consistently
  - d. All that He does He intends to reveal the beauty of the sum total of all His perfections so that all creation can join in the joy and delight God has in being God.

##### **B. In raising Jesus from the dead God reveals His personal glory**

1. he gave us forgiveness and glorified Jesus as the all-sufficient forgiver;
2. he gave us a friend to count on and glorified Jesus as utterly reliable;
3. he gave us guidance and unchanging truth and glorified Jesus as the absolute foundation for truth and righteousness;
4. he gave us a life that is not pitiable but enviable, a ministry that is not in vain but fruitful, and glorified Jesus as the source and goal of all life and all ministry;
5. and he gave us everlasting joy that will not be ended by death, and glorified Jesus as the author of life, the victor over death, and the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

#### **V. The practical worth of the resurrection of Jesus**

##### **A. Summary**

1. Your faith is worthwhile
2. Your future is certain
3. Your mission is clear

##### **B. The resurrection of Jesus makes you who you are**