

The Gospel of John

He has Risen!

Luke 24:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are going to celebrate Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. As Michelle would tell you "We celebrate these every day as a Christian". And we do! We even remember Christ's death on the cross every Sunday, don't we, as we gather together with fellow Christians around the Lord's Table? Every time we take the bread and drink the cup, we not only proclaim that we believe that Jesus died for us, but that He has risen from the dead, and is returning again to bring His children home.

So, **we serve a risen Savior**, and we look forward to that day when we shall stand with Him in a glorious heavenly home which He has prepared for all who have loved and served Him.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Luke 24:1-10 (NASB)

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but **He has risen**. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." ⁸ And they remembered His words, ⁹ and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

Prayer

BODY:

I. HE HAS RISEN!

It was Sunday morning just after the Friday crucifixion. The executioners were confident that they had done their work. The spear in the side of Christ had made certain that He had exhaled His final breath. And that final breath seemed to suck the air out of the universe. As His body lay in the grave, no one was placing bets on a resurrection. **Pause**

The only concern of the guards were those pesky disciples. The religious leaders were concerned too. In fact they went to Pilate and made a request.

Matthew 27:64 (NASB)

64 Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

As we know, no concern was necessary. The disciples were in meltdown. All of the disciples forsook Him and fled. Peter followed him for a while at a distance. Then he caved in and cursed Christ three times. John, the beloved disciple, followed Jesus all the way to the cross and witnessed the crucifixion. But there is no evidence that even John expected the resurrection. The other disciples were hiding in every available cover in Jerusalem for fear of a cross that might bear their name.

It seemed on Saturday night that the enemy had won. All hope appeared to be gone. The women did not come to the cemetery on Sunday morning to talk to Jesus. They came to embalm the body of Jesus. But God had other plans. That is when God rocked the cemetery.

Matthew 28:2-6 (NASB)

2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for **He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.**

There was a violent earthquake. The women looked in the direction of the tomb and the sealed stone was rolled away from the tomb entrance and sitting upon it was an angel with an appearance as white as snow. The guards were sprawled out on the ground and were so scared they appeared as dead. Ironic, don't you think? Their job was to guard a dead man. Now...**they** looked dead! And the dead man they were guarding is apparently alive!

I want you to note that the angel had descended from heaven and rolled away the stone. And he told the women not to be afraid. It was the angel's job to declare the Easter message to them. **"Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has...pause... RISEN, just as He said."** **He has RISEN!**

Other than that, just another ordinary Sunday morning, right?

II. HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH!

God has a plan for all of our lives. We need that reminder don't we? We can so easily forget that God is writing the story of our life as we live it. A unique, never written before story, on each one of our lives. We get so preoccupied in the details of the day, the humdrum, the busy times; the comings and the goings; the bill paying, the boss pleasing, and all of the activities of life, that we forget that God is up to something grand in **each** of our lives. Life is filled with twists and turns. A cemetery sharing the same block as a playground. Weddings sharing the same calendar as funerals. We seek for a story line

that is threading all of these days together and it can be very confusing. And if the confusion is not bad enough, what about the **conclusion**?

We die!

This heart, unless Christ comes first, is going to have one final heartbeat. This hand is going to fall limp. These lungs are going to exhale one final time. We all going to die. No one escapes death. The mortality rate is the same worldwide: **(Raise index finger) one death per person!** The genius, the powerful, the rich, the weak, and the poor. No one outruns it. No one outsmarts it. We all die. No matter what you do. The finest surgeon might enhance your life, but he cannot eliminate your death. Pop all the pills you want, eat all the green vegetables you can take, stay out of the sun, stay away from alcohol and tobacco, practice social distancing, you may improve the quality of your life, but you will never eliminate the inevitability of death.

Isn't that a bummer!

We just die. **Pause** Or do we?

What if this is just the first step?

What if this is just the first chapter...What if this is just the first sentence of the first chapter...what if this is just the first word of the first sentence...what if this is just the first letter of the first word of the first sentence of the first chapter of the story that God is writing of our lives?

Jesus died that we might live.

John 14:15-20 (NASB)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

It is because Jesus conquered death that you too shall live. All men live and then die. But Jesus died and then lived that we may live again.

Romans 8:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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

There is a big difference between **having** something and **being** something. Jesus doesn't just offer us resurrection and life, He **is** resurrection and life. Jesus spoke in metaphors and even cryptically before His death and resurrection. This often left the disciples somewhat confused. Jesus does not say "I have the **power** to resurrect and give life. He says "**I AM** the resurrection and the life!"

This is the promise of Easter. [Pause](#)

The ability to understand the gospel message, depends on understanding two things:

1. There is a God who is our Creator and loves us.
2. We are sinners who need to be restored back to God.

Do you truly believe in your heart that there is a God? This is the first step. I would be glad to talk with any of you who are struggling with that belief.

Once we realize that we are sinners to an eternal God, the message that Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose the third day from the grave will impact your life. You will realize for the first time the REAL PURPOSE OF LIFE while you are on this earth. That purpose is to get right with God so you can spend eternity with Him.

God allows us to make our own decisions. When He created us in His own image that gave us the ability to understand, to reason, and to choose for ourselves.

Luke 18:31-33 (NASB)

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, ³³ and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

Stop for a moment and think about what we have just read. Then answer this question, "Did you understand what was read?" Did you understand those words?

I expect you to answer, "Yes, I understood them." After all, they are pretty simple words. We do understand words like **mock, insult, spit, flog, kill, and rise again**. We understand very well what Jesus was saying.

The apostle Paul said,

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NASB)

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Paul says "**we preach Christ crucified.**" Paul tells us that the **old rugged cross** is the very heart of the message about Jesus.

That is why Jesus took His apostles aside and said, "I have something important to tell you. We're going to Jerusalem, and when we get there they are going to turn me over to the Gentiles, who will mock me, insult me, spit on me, flog me, and **kill me**. And then on the third day **I will rise again.**"

Now what could be clearer than that?

Luke 18:34 (NASB)

³⁴ But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.*

III. GOD'S PLAN IS REVEALED.

In amazement, we wonder, "What's the matter with them? Were they hard of hearing? Why didn't they get the message? Why didn't they understand?"

The reason that they did not understand, is that God had chosen not to reveal it yet. Did you hear that? If the rulers had understood who Jesus was, they would not have crucified Him. This would have included Pilate, Caiaphas (who was the High Priest), members of the Sanhedrin, and the Roman soldiers.

This understanding was obviously kept from Satan as well. If Satan had found out what was happening, the plan wouldn't have worked. So God kept it hidden.

On Calvary's hill, while they were driving nails into the hands of Jesus; while Jesus is writhing in pain; while His blood is dripping to the ground and He is dying; Satan is no doubt thinking, "I've won. I've beaten God. Evil is triumphant. Righteousness has been defeated." But Satan didn't know the plan of God.

It wasn't until 3 days later, when Jesus rose from the tomb, that Satan realized for the first time that he had made a mistake. That he had played into the hand of God. He had done exactly what God expected him to do. He crucified the Lord of Glory, and now sinners can be redeemed and saved from their sins.

Jesus told the apostles ahead of time, but it went right over their heads.

Now, what about us today? Do we understand? Following the resurrection God revealed His plan of salvation. All the pieces of the puzzle started to fit together for the disciples, and the words of Jesus began to make sense to them. For the first time, they began to understand His teachings that had just gone over their heads before.

Do we understand the significance of Christ's death on the cross and the importance of His resurrection?

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

It was Christ's death on the cross that defeated death. He became the perfect sacrifice for all time for the salvation of mankind. Christ's death on the cross was all that was needed for our salvation, but Jesus also told us that after three days he would rise from the dead. This would require a miracle because dead men cannot rise from the dead. The purpose of miracles was to prove that all that Jesus claimed was true and from God.

The cross may seem as foolishness for us today. It seems like this "**cross**" business and this "**dying**" business and this "**shed blood**" business is foolishness. It's gory. We don't even want to hear about it.

But then the Holy Spirit locks into our hearts and we begin to realize that this is a personal message, and we confess Jesus as our Savior and become His disciples. Then what used to be foolishness is now spiritual wisdom. What used to be weakness is now power and strength. Suddenly, it all makes sense.

Through the wisdom of God we can understand. There is only one sacrifice. There is only one way to forgiveness. There is only one plan of salvation and it is all made possible through Jesus. Jesus Christ died for you and me.

That is all that matters. When He becomes your Savior, then you have all of these promises for yourself. Through your faith, your repentance, your willingness to obey in Christian baptism you are promised the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of God's Holy Spirit to empower you to live a Christian life.

CONCLUSION:

Yes! We will **all** face death. But if you are a child of God, you will not face it alone and you will not face it in fear. If you are in Christ, you will die in peace. The one who defeated death will resurrect you just as He was resurrected and He will give you eternal life. The last day of your life will become the best day of your life.

John 11:25-26 (NASB)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

The world is spending billions of dollars trying to improve the quality of their lives. They are seeking ways to stay healthy, to stop aging, and live eternally. And I am sure that Satan is encouraging all of this and promising that it can happen. You don't need God, He says, all you just need is science. But he is the father of all lies.

Do you realize that Jesus has already provided the solution for all of these things that we desire? And His promises are rock solid! Jesus tells us "**I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies**".

If you are a child of God you are promised eternal life in the presence of God and His glory in heaven. There we will live eternally free of sickness, thirst, and death. The path to all of those glorious things is through Jesus Christ. Just accept Him as your savior and live a new life in Him.

He is Lord.