

Easter Series 5 - The Resurrection

Intro

We have talked about the sacrificial system in Leviticus. This system taught the Israelites that God can be approached only with the blood of a worthy substitute. However, none of the animals offered in these sacrifices could, in themselves, take away a person's sin or truly pay the debt for sin. But by offering these sacrifices in faith, the people of the Old Testament demonstrated their faith in God and their future hope Christ, the superior, once-for-all sacrifice, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. The reason it matters to look at the sacrifices of the Old Testament is to show how us the real cost Sin has and the way that God offers redemption and reconciliation throughout the blood of a substitute.

We also talked about The Passover which is the most important event in Old Testament history. It was a turning point, a defining moment for the Jewish people. Everything changed for them with Passover. God rescued, preserved, and called them out to be His people in their own land. Immediately upon their departure from Egypt, He instituted the Feast of Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread) as an everlasting memorial to their deliverance. God set up a tradition for Israel to intentionally remember what He had done for them in the Passover and Exodus.

Passover Instructions in order to escape the death of the 10th plague:

- One male lamb without blemish per house
- Bring lamb in on 10th day of the month
- Kill lamb on 14th day of the month at midnight
 - (according to our clock that would be 12:00am on 15th day)
- Paint blood on their house
- Roast the lamb whole
 - Nothing was broken or wasted

We talked about the Triumphant Entry or Palm Sunday. This was the 10th day of the month and was the beginning of the Passover celebration. It is no mistake that on the very day Jews were bringing their own passover lamb into their homes that Jesus our greater passover lamb made his entry into Jerusalem.

Last week we are going to talk about the events that happened on the following Thursday and Friday of that week. Traditionally this Friday is known as Good Friday, however in reality there is very little that is good about the events of that day. Jesus was tortured, mocked, and crucified. He was dead and buried before Friday was over. It is only because of the resurrection that we can look at what happened and call it good.

Jesus rose again on the third day

Mark 16:1-7

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

- The Mary's go to finish burial preparations on Jesus as soon as they were able according to Sabbath observance practices.
- They expected to find a dead Jesus in the tomb, they had no expectation of a resurrection.
- Two women are the first to learn about the risen Christ and are tasked with telling this good news to the disciples.
 - Notice Peter is specifically mentioned and remember how he had denied Jesus three times.

Jesus appeared to the disciples

Luke 24:36-42

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them.

- The disciples were discussing the news from the Mary's when Jesus returns proving their testimony true
- However even seeing him they did not completely believe, this shows how truly astonishing the what Jesus did was.
- They are able to touch him and He eats fish, proving He has physically resurrected, this was not a spirit, ghost, or hallucination.

John 20:24-28

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

- Thomas was not with them, and He still had his doubts.
- Jesus graciously confronts Thomas' doubts, notice the tone of love and understand toward Thomas, not a single bit of negativity toward his doubts.

The Resurrection is the most important fact for Christianity

John 20:30-31

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- Every part of this is recorded so that you may believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior

Hebrews 9:19-28

19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

- The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the greater fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices that bring us into a right relationship with God.

Hebrews 10:11-14

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

The Resurrection proves Jesus is the Messiah

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

15 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. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- If Christ has not been raised then our faith in Him is worthless.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

- Since Christ has been raised, we have a foundation to believe that we may have new life through him.

The Resurrection give us living hope after death and through trials

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

- Because of the resurrection we have hope even in death.
- Just as death was not the end of Jesus, death is not the end of us.

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- Because Jesus is our resurrected and living hope, we have hope not only in life after death but also in the various trials we face through this life.

The Resurrection sets us free from sin

Romans 6:5-11

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Because of Jesus died he satisfied the cost of sin “once for all”
- Because Jesus’ resurrection He lives a life free from affects of sin and lives eternally with God
- Therefore we, through faith in Jesus, can consider ourselves dead to sin and resurrected to live with God in the same way.

Romans 6:12-14

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- Because of the resurrection, sin and death have no power over Jesus.
- Because of our faith in Jesus, sin and death have no power over us!

Therefore...

Philippians 3:10-14

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Jesus is not a dead martyr to be pitied, but a living, reigning, returning Lord to be loved and emulated, both in present suffering and in our future reward. - He is our example in life, death, and resurrection.

1 Peter 1:13-17

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

- We have Jesus’ example and teachings to show us how to live a Holy life - He is the example to follow.
- We should be obedient to Him because of our love and faith in Him - He is the motivation to be obedient.

1 Peter 1:18-21

18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- We have been ransomed (rescued) by the imperishable (resurrected) blood of Christ, who is our blameless substitute for sin and hope for eternal glory.
 - He is the reason we have no fear of death and hope through trial.

Discussion Questions

- In your own words, why is the resurrection so important to Christians?
- Why do you think God chose the Mary's as the ones to first learn about Jesus' resurrection?
- What is the significance of Peter being specifically mentioned by the angel? - What does this tell you about what God thought about Peter?
- Why do you think the disciples still doubted even after the Mary's told them what they had seen?
- What does Jesus' reaction to their doubts teach you about Him?
- In your own words, how is Jesus similar but greater than the Old Testament sacrifices?
- What do the Old Testament sacrifices teach you about Jesus?
- How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope for life after death?
- How can the resurrection help us when we face hard times in life?
- Why does the resurrection set you free from the power of sin?
- How does faith in Jesus connect us to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?
- How should we follow the example of Jesus' life of perfect obedience to God?
- How does the death of Jesus help us live a life of obedience?
- How can resurrection motivate us to live a holy life?