

"The Life You Lost" | Rev Tim Frickenschmidt | Easter Sunday, April 04, 2021

Old Testament Reading [Acts 10:34, 37-43](#)

⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "... ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear. ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

Epistle Reading [1 Cor 15:3-4, 17-20](#)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ...
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. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Reading [Mark 16:1-8](#)

¹⁶ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought 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." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Introduction

Covid restrictions caused us to lose much of our lives last year. What did we lose this past year? Do we believe we can receive that lost life back? Because the resurrection of Jesus says that we can. Two points to explore that: (1) Total Loss and (2) Singled Out.

Background

1. Total Loss.

- Do we know what it's like to lose our everything (marriage, health, child, job)? Because that's what the women going to Jesus' tomb experienced when they discovered He was not there.
- Especially Mary Magdalene, who had been full of evil spirits and Jesus cast them out for her. She must have wondered what am I going to do, to go back to (with no family and no plan).
- We may know, yet, what it's like to lose everything; if we don't, we probably will: because that is life in this broken world. If it's of this world, some day we will lose it just like they lost Jesus.
- We will all walk the walk of Mary Magdalene and Salome when they found they had lost Jesus. But, we hope this walk can be changed. How? Point Two, Singled Out.

2. Singled Out.

- It would have been impossible for Peter and the other disciples to believe that Jesus was not in His tomb; not only in its truthfulness but, also, in its application. None of Jesus' disciples believed the truthfulness of Jesus telling them He would rise. Why? Because the resurrection was impossible for them to believe. But, something happened to move them past their unbelief: they saw Him and touched Him. If we consider that unbelievable, we're going to have to come up with another historically plausible, alternative explanation for what happened that day (as [N. T. Wright](#) has said).
- Some of us might be struggling with the application of the story of Jesus' resurrection. If so, we need to know that Peter is singled out (v7) because he had the most to gain from Jesus' resurrection. As the worst of the disciples, he denied Jesus three times; by singling out Peter, it is as if Jesus is saying "wrong again, Peter; I love you, I want you back." Peter now knows the level of Jesus' love and grace because he's been singled out, he's been called out by name and it changes him; it gives him a gratitude for His grace and kindness.

•The Easter message is about reconciliation with God and through Him with others: by Him taking our weaknesses/failures upon Himself and bearing their costs for us – and that is Good News in the context of how we can change because our relationship with Christ is secure. After Jesus takes Peter back, he becomes the greatest leader in the early Christian Church.

•We've all suffered losses this past year (Covid deaths, jobs, marriages, in-person school, school activities and friends) and, in some degree, found ourselves all alone like the women at the tomb. We weren't complete merely seeing images of people on video screens, we needed to be with their bodies, in-person. In getting people back in their bodies we're about to get everything back. Disembodies life is not life at all. Only Christianity teaches that life eternal is going to be embodied. Jesus was raised from the dead as the firstfruits and so, too, will our bodies be given back.

Discuss

- Can we imagine Mary Magdalene's sense of loss? What kinds of our loses might compare?
- Can we imagine another historically plausible, alternative explanation to Jesus' resurrection?
- Why was Peter singled out? What can we learn from Peter's experience?
- How did Peter have the most to gain from Jesus' resurrection?
- At one point, Tim referred to Peter as being a jerk. Why?
- How is the Easter message about reconciliation?

Conclusion/Application

•Yes, the resurrection of Jesus is an actual, historical event but it is also a promise of God. It is a promise that in giving Jesus back to us in His body, everything lost, everything that sin and death have taken from us will be restored to those who know Him and follow after Him. Every loved one will be given back, soul and body. Every injustice/betrayal overcome, every wound healed. Because God entered into the worst of what sin and death do. He gave up His only Son. He bore the worst of what sin can do so He might give everything back to us that sin and death have taken.

•Until He does that, in our lives in the world to come, as we walk through this life in this world, we have to know that Jesus goes before us; even as He said He was going before the disciples to Galilee, He goes before us so we don't have to fear, He will be with us. Sin and death have no more claim on Him and He will protect and defend us, even in our death He will be with us, He will lead us through death and, eventually, raise up our bodies just as He, in His body, was raised.

•Do not be afraid because Christ is raised. (He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!!!)