

5-Day Devotional: Three Phrases That Changed the World

Day 1: It Is Finished

Scripture: John 19:30 - "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

Reflection:

Tetelestai. One word in Greek, three words in English, but infinite in meaning. When Jesus cried out "It is finished" from the cross, He wasn't expressing defeat—He was declaring victory.

This single phrase shifted all of humanity from a system of earning God's favor to receiving God's grace. Your debt? Fully paid. Your judgment? Fully served. The battle against sin and death? Completely won.

Charles Spurgeon described Christ's final words as "the shout of a conquering warrior." His strength wasn't exhausted—His mission was accomplished. He laid down His life willingly, just as He said He would.

Question for Reflection:

Where in your life are you still trying to earn what Jesus has already finished? What shame, guilt, or striving do you need to lay down today?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You that Your work on the cross was complete. Help me to stop striving and rest in the finished work of Your sacrifice. Where I'm still carrying guilt or trying to prove my worth, remind me: it is finished. Amen.

Day 2: The Only Solid Ground

Scripture: Matthew 28:2 - "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."

Reflection:

The earth shook twice—once at Christ's death and once at His resurrection. At His death, the earth trembled because it could not bear His suffering. At His resurrection, it shook because it could not hinder His rising.

These earthquakes remind us that the only fixed ground we have to stand on is God Himself. Everything else in this world shifts, changes, and crumbles. Careers fail. Relationships fracture. Health declines. Security disappears.

But God? He is our unshakeable foundation.

When the women arrived at the tomb that morning, they found an angel sitting on the rolled-away stone—a picture of divine authority over death itself. The guards trembled and became like dead men, but the angel's first words to the women were, "Do not be afraid."

Question for Reflection:

What in your life feels unstable right now? How can you anchor yourself more firmly to God as your solid ground?

Prayer:

Father, when everything around me shakes, You remain steady. Help me to build my life on You alone—not on circumstances, possessions, or people, but on Your unchanging character. You are my rock and my refuge. Amen.

Day 3: He Is Not Here—He Is Risen

Scripture: Matthew 28:6 - "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Reflection:

These words—"He is not here, for he has risen"—are the hinge point of all human history. Without them, we have no Christianity. Without the resurrection, hope is just wishful thinking.

But because of the resurrection, everything changes. Death is defeated. Jesus is validated as God's Son. Eternal life is secured for all who believe. Hope is no longer a vague wish—it's anchored to a living, risen Savior.

Notice the angel's addition: "as he said." Jesus predicted His resurrection multiple times (Matthew 12:40, 16:21, 17:9, 20:19). This wasn't an unexpected fate—it was the called shot. And when it happened exactly as He said, it validated everything Jesus taught.

Luke 24:8 tells us that when the women heard this reminder, "they remembered his words." The resurrection wasn't just proof of Jesus' power—it was proof of His trustworthiness.

Question for Reflection:

Do you truly believe in the resurrection? How does this truth—that Jesus is alive—change the way you live today?

Prayer:

Risen Lord, You are alive! You conquered death and the grave. Help me to live like someone who serves a living Savior, not a dead religious figure. Because You live, I have hope. Because You live, I can face tomorrow. Amen.

Day 4: Go and Tell

Scripture: Matthew 28:7, 10 - "Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead... Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'"

Reflection:

The resurrection wasn't meant to be a private revelation for a select few—it was designed to be a public proclamation for everyone. Jesus appeared first to the women and gave them a mission: "Go and tell."

In that culture, women's testimony wasn't valued in court. But Jesus entrusted the greatest news in history to them first. Why? Because spreading the Gospel doesn't hinge on institutions, credentials, or social status—it hinges on people whose lives have been radically transformed.

The disciples were hiding, fearful and imperfect. Yet Jesus sent these unlikely messengers to them with the good news. Later, He would commission all His followers: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

This is the missional cry for every generation of believers. We who have experienced the transformation of the empty tomb are called to be messengers—not because we're perfect, but because we know the One who is.

Question for Reflection:

Who in your life needs to hear the good news of Jesus? What's holding you back from telling them?

Prayer:

Jesus, You've given me the greatest news the world has ever heard. Give me boldness to share it with others—not out of obligation, but out of the overflow of what You've done in my life. Show me who needs to hear about You today. Amen.

Day 5: Repent and Believe

Scripture: Mark 1:15 - "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Reflection:

Before the cross, before the resurrection, Jesus gave us another world-changing phrase: "Repent and believe in the gospel." This phrase transforms us from people conformed to the pattern of this world into people transformed by the renewing of our minds.

The sermon shared a powerful story of a woman who spent her entire life in church—singing in the choir, attending services—but who had never truly surrendered her life to Jesus. In her 60s, the Holy Spirit convicted her that everything she'd heard had never traveled from her head to her heart.

You can attend church, serve, sing, and look the part, but Jesus asks for more than religious activity. He asks for your heart. Romans 10:9 tells us: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Proverbs 25:25 says, "Like cold water to a thirsty soul is good news from a far country." The good news from Jerusalem—that Jesus died and rose again—is refreshment for every thirsty soul.

Question for Reflection:

Have you personally repented and believed? Does Jesus know you—not because of your works, but because you've surrendered your life to Him?

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. I say yes to You—I repent of my sin and turn to You for forgiveness and salvation. Save me. Make me new. I want to know You and be known by You. Transform my life from the inside out. In Your name, Amen.

Blog: Three Phrases That Changed the World

Every year, we celebrate Easter—or as many call it, Resurrection Sunday. We dress up, attend church, enjoy family meals, maybe hunt for eggs. But beneath all the traditions lies an earth-shattering truth: three phrases spoken in and around the resurrection of Jesus Christ literally changed the course of human history.

These aren't just religious platitudes or nice sentiments for greeting cards. They're world-altering declarations that have transformed billions of lives across two millennia.

Phrase #1: "It Is Finished"

When Jesus hung on the cross, Matthew 27:50 tells us "Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit." But what did He cry out? John 19:30 gives us the answer: **"It is finished."**

In Greek, this is one word: *Tetelestai*.

This single word carried profound weight in the ancient world. It was written on receipts to show a bill had been paid in full. It was used in courtrooms when a sentence was fully served. It was shouted by warriors when a battle was won.

Charles Spurgeon captured it perfectly: "Christ's strength was not exhausted. His last word was uttered with a loud voice, like the shout of a conquering warrior."

When Jesus declared "It is finished," He wasn't expressing defeat—He was announcing victory. Your debt? Paid in full. Your judgment for sin? Fully served. The spiritual war against death, hell, and Satan? Completely won.

This phrase shifted all of humanity from a system of **earning** God's favor to **receiving** God's grace. Every religion on the planet says "do." But because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, Christianity proclaims "done."

Where in your life are you still striving? What shame are you clinging to? What guilt are you carrying? The resurrected Christ reminds you this Easter: *It's finished*. Stop running. Stop trying to earn what's already been given.

Phrase #2: "He Is Not Here—He Is Risen"

Early on the first day of the week, women came to Jesus' tomb to finish preparing His body. They were asking themselves, "Who will roll away the stone for us?" (Mark 16:3). They expected to find a sealed tomb and a dead body.

Instead, they encountered an earthquake, an angel whose appearance was like lightning, and words that changed everything:

"He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay" (Matthew 28:6).

This is the hinge point of all human history. Without this phrase, we have no Christianity. Without the resurrection, our faith is meaningless and our hope is just wishful thinking.

But because of the resurrection:

- Death has been defeated
- Jesus is validated as the Son of God
- Everything Jesus taught is confirmed as truth
- Eternal life for believers is secured
- Hope is no longer wishful thinking—it's anchored to a living Savior

Notice what the angel added: "as he said." Jesus predicted His resurrection repeatedly throughout the Gospels (Matthew 12:40, 16:21, 17:9, 20:19, 26:31-32, 27:63). This wasn't an unexpected fate—it was the called shot. And when it happened exactly as Jesus said it would, it validated every word He spoke.

The tomb is empty. He is not there. He is risen. And that changes everything.

Phrase #3: "Go and Tell"

After announcing the resurrection, the angel gave the women a mission: **"Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead"** (Matthew 28:7).

Later, when Jesus Himself appeared to the women, He repeated the charge: **"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me"** (Matthew 28:10).

Before the resurrection, Jesus' victory over death was witnessed by a select few. But with these words—"Go and tell"—Jesus transformed the resurrection from a private revelation into a public proclamation.

Think about the significance: In first-century culture, women's testimony wasn't even valued in court. Yet Jesus entrusted the greatest news in human history to women first. Why? Because spreading the Gospel doesn't hinge on social status, credentials, or institutions—it hinges on people whose lives have been radically transformed.

The disciples were hiding in fear, imperfect and still learning. Yet Jesus sent these unlikely messengers to carry the news that would turn the world upside down.

This became the Great Commission we find in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The mission is clear: Go with intentionality. Make disciples, not just converts. Reach all nations—there are no boundaries for this message. And know that Jesus goes with us.

The Phrase That Transforms: "Repent and Believe"

But there's one more world-changing phrase we can't overlook—one Jesus spoke at the very beginning of His ministry, before the cross, before the resurrection:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

This is the phrase that transforms individuals. It moves us from being conformed to the pattern of this world to being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

The sermon shared a powerful story about a woman who spent her entire life in church—singing in the choir, attending every service—but who had never truly surrendered her life to Jesus. Well into her 60s, standing in that choir loft one Sunday morning, the Holy Spirit convicted her: everything she'd heard her whole life was in her head but had never reached her heart.

She handed her songbook to the person next to her, walked down to the pastor, and said, "I am not saved. I've never surrendered my life to Jesus." And right there, for the first time, she prayed to receive Christ.

You can attend church. You can serve. You can sing. You can look the part. But Jesus doesn't want religious activity—He wants your heart.

Romans 10:9 makes it clear: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

It's not "hope so" or "think so" or "wish so"—it can be **"is so"** because of what Jesus did.

Good News From a Far Country

Proverbs 25:25 says, "Like cold water to a thirsty soul is good news from a far country."

What happened in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago—in a country far away from most of us—is good news. Like cold water to a thirsty soul, the truth that Jesus died and rose again

refreshes, restores, and transforms.

Jesus isn't a truth to consider. He is **the truth, the way, and the life** (John 14:6).

It's not that Jesus lived and died that transforms us. It's that **Jesus died and lives** that changes everything.

Your Response This Easter

This Resurrection Sunday, which of these world-changing phrases does your heart need to hear?

Do you need to hear "**It is finished**"—to stop striving and rest in the completed work of Christ?

Do you need to be reminded that "**He is not here, for He is risen**"—that your hope is anchored to a living Savior, not a dead religious figure?

Do you need to embrace the call to "**Go and tell**"—to share the good news that transformed your life with others who desperately need it?

Or perhaps today is the day you need to respond to Jesus' original invitation: "**Repent and believe in the gospel.**" Maybe you've attended church your whole life but never truly surrendered. Maybe you've been sitting on the fence, intellectually acknowledging Jesus but never giving Him your heart.

If you've never confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, today can be the day everything changes.

The tomb is empty. Death is defeated. Jesus is alive.

And He's calling you to new life in Him.

If you made a decision to follow Jesus today or if you have questions about what it means to surrender your life to Christ, we'd love to connect with you. God never intended for you to do life alone. Reach out to a pastor, talk to the friend who invited you to church, or contact us—we're here to journey with you.

He is risen. He is risen indeed.