

Well, if I was talking with you one-on-one, I would ask you how are you doing in these uncertain days? There is a lot going on in the world.

You know, President Trump announced not only is the war escalating, but there's now a new 48 hour ultimatum or the United States is going to turn some of Iran into rubble, right? I think we're still looking for the lost F15 fighter pilot. He found him.

I didn't see the news today. Is he alive? So the second guy is back safe. Praise God for that. So that's one list.

Yeah, 1 less uncertain thing. I guess I need to look at the news on Sunday mornings before I'm getting ready.

Uncertainty in in the world, oil prices and gas prices are up, stock markets down. Things are going on in this church. These are a little bit of uncertain days, right? We're going through transition and change and I know there's there's some there's some hurt

and there's some wondering God what? Are you doing, and maybe in your personal lives today, on this Easter Sunday, a day filled with joy, maybe it's not so much for you because you're in a tough situation. Maybe it involves a job or a troubled marriage, a loss of finances. Maybe it's something to do with. With your future education, maybe it's something to do with a friend, maybe it's something to do with your health, maybe a loss of a loved one. And these are uncertain times. And more than ever, we need to know that God is able to make a way for us, yes, to make a way for us individually. They make a way for our country. To make a way for our church. And that brings up the big idea this morning.

Here's where I am going in the big idea, and that is simply this that God will always make.

I believe that and what that means.

So today is called Resurrection Day,
Resurrection Sunday. Why is that
important? Well, because Hebrews 9:27 says
it's appointed unto all men, all people
to die once and then.

Face the judgment. Ecclesiastes 7, verse
2 says that death is the
destiny of all people. In The
Jungle Book, it's the wise old
owl who declares that the most
feared thing in the jungle is
not the lion. It's death, for
death steps aside for no one.

So we need to talk about life after
death. We need to talk about resurrected
lives. And so this morning, just kind of
rapid fire, I want to encourage you guys
with the stories of the Bible, the real
life accounts of God raising people from
the dead. And we know who we're going,
where the climax is going to be.

But let's review some of these stories,
perhaps that you know, maybe some of you
haven't thought of for a while, but let's

go back to the Bible and see how
God most powerfully can make a way even
in life over death. Well, exhibit A, I'm
going to give you some exhibits today.
Exhibit A, is this Elisha? And the
dead boy, now this is not
Elijah. This is his protege, Elijah.
And if you remember, Elijah performed
more miracles than anybody else except
for Jesus Christ.
Well, this story is a story about
a woman and her husband from Schuma.
And this was an area where a
lie shut, the prophet frequented. And so
as Elijah would come to their area,
their town, they would prepare a meal
for him. And eventually they said to
themselves. Let's do more than that.
Let's make an upstairs apartment for him
up on the roof. Let's make a room there
and we'll provide him a bed, a table, a
chair and a lamp. And so when he comes
into town, we'll do more than feed him.
He can stay there, he can lodge there.

And so that's what happened. And before long he had. The revelation from God. And he told this Shunammite woman that a year from now you're going to have a son.

Well, that was a miracle in itself because she was barren and she kind of replied to the prophet. Ohh, don't kid me, Don't don't play with me, you know, don't bring up my hopes. Well, sure enough, a year later she had a boy. So

Fast forward a few years and that son is now out with his dad and they're working in the. Fields And all of a sudden

he says, my head, my head. I don't know if he had a cerebral hemorrhage or what, but the father asked the servant to carry him back to the house, to his mother. He laid on his mom's lap until noon and then died. He's dead. So they take him up into Elisha's room. Lame on Elijah's bed. Then the mom gets a servant and they head out to find the prophet, the one who predicted that this son would be given to them in the

first place. They find him and he asked how you're doing. And she says, ohh, my Lord, didn't I tell you? Not to get my hopes up, He says let's go. They go back to the house and Elijah goes up to the room, his room by himself, and there's the dead boy on the bed. He prays. He walks around the room. He and then he does something strange. He lays down on the top of that boy, hand to hand, face to face. And.

Then he gets up, he prays more, he walks around some more, then he repeats that prophet that process, and he lays on the boy, hands and face to face, and he feels the boy getting warm. The boy then sneezed the seven times and he gets up brought back from the dead. Elijah then gives him to his mom says take your son. You know in the Old Testament there wasn't as much of a developed understanding theologically of. Life after

death. Ohh. There was shield, the place
of the dead. There was Abraham's bosom
where the good people went, but they
didn't understand it as much. But this
was not just a a near death experience.
This was a boy being brought back from
the dead. So that's exhibit A. Exhibit B.
It is what you and I call the
transfiguration. And you remember the
story from Matthew 17, Jesus takes his
inner core of three Peter, James and
John. They go up to the mount of
Transfiguration. I haven't been on it.
I've seen it from a distance. And
they're, they have this encounter. Jesus
is transfigured before them and his face
becomes bright like the sun. And there's
this. Allow that that envelops them,
and the disciples hear this
voice from heaven. This is
my beloved son.
Right and this voice says more to
them that this is my beloved son
and God's approval of him. But God

says listen to him. Well, they're struck with fear and remember this story. They kneel down, they they fall down, right? They're so afraid eventually. Business comes over to him and they and he says fear not, get up and they get up. And what am I missing in this story? What else has happened? Remember who appeared with Jesus? Moses and not Elisha, but Elijah, the great prophet of the Old Testament. They're standing next to Jesus and what are they doing? They are talking with Jesus about the events they're going to take place in Jerusalem. His death, burial and resurrection and there they are, living, living beings again. The disciples and the ancient Jews didn't have an understanding so much of a physical, bodily resurrection. But you know, that's our hope, right? Your hope should not be that one day. Your spirit floats up to heaven. Your hope that should be at one day you will be bodily raised from the

dead and in heaven. You're going to have a new heavenly body and that like Jesus, it can be touched if you think of Jesus's post resurrection appearances. A body that can eat, can drink, can move, is recognizable. That's our hope. Not that we'll just be ghosts. So exhibit B, Moses and Elijah alive again. Exhibit C Gyrus's daughter from Luke 8. You remember this story, right? Jesus has come back from setting the gathering Demoniacs. Three, he comes back into town. The crowds are around him, the synagogue rulers, servants come up to him and.

With the stories given to him that the Gyrus's daughter, the synagogue ruler's daughter, is ill and they want Jesus, Cyrus wants Jesus to come. He starts making his way to that area.

Along the way, remember this, the woman who suffered from a hemorrhage for a dozen years. Touches him and receives her

healing. Well, anyway, then servants come and said don't bother the master anymore, your daughter's dead. And then Jesus goes anyway to the house and remember what happens. He goes into the synagogue, ruler's house, He walks in. There's already there. They had time to call the professionals in. There's already the professional mourners there. Some are playing flutes, some are singing and crying out and moaning and groaning. That was the common custom of the day. Jesus goes in and says stop, she's not dead, she's only asleep. Do you remember what scripture says? They did. They laughed at him, Jesus. Then he'd only taken Peter. James and John inside, then he takes mom and dad also and they go up to the room and there's the daughter laying dead on her bed and Jesus goes up to her, takes her by the hand and says Talitha coomb my child arise and the little girl sits up in bed brought back. To life.

What an amazing thing to see. Can you imagine being there? A cold corpse brought back to life? Well, there's more case studies. Exhibit D, right? You remember this one? The widow son Jesus was in an area of Nain, and he's in his disciples. We're passing through and lo and behold, they stumble upon a funeral procession and it turns out that a young man had died and he was the only son of a widow. Her husband had already died, so everything she had was taken from her. And there's this funeral procession going out. Of that little town and you can picture an open coffin or a bier and Jesus goes up, tells her to weep not, and he goes up and touches it. You remember what happened? That young man sat up. Could you imagine the shock of the people? In fact, their response was God has come to visit his people. It was an amazing, amazing miracle. Well,

there's another exhibit, maybe the most famous 1 and that's Lazarus and I don't have time. This is all of these stories, a whole sermons, right? I'm just giving you the. Synopsis and.

In Lazarus Exhibit E, we remember that story of how Jesus on purpose delayed going to see probably his best friend Lazarus. He had gotten word he was out of town, He was with his disciples, and he had gotten word that that his friend Lazarus was gravely ill.

And Jesus on purpose.

Fully God. Fully man at that time even. On purpose, waited. He knew there was a better story, there was a better purpose. And so he waited a couple days and then he said, let's go to Jerusalem and remember. Some of the disciples pushed back and said, yeah, let's go to our death.

Jesus LED them and it went to this little village. Just, you know,

a mile and 1/2 or so from Jerusalem
called Bethany and Jesus shows up and and
of course the sisters 1 by 1 come
out to to meet him. And so if
you've only been here Lord and all of
that. Anyway, Jesus makes his way to the
tomb. Now Lazarus had already been in
the. Tomb for how many days?
Four days. That's significant because
they Jews believe that spirits hang
around the body for three or
four days. So that was important
and. Jesus shows up
and he tells them to roll away the
stone, the stone that sealed that. And of
course they they protest and say, Lord,
he's decaying, he's been in there four
days, it's going to stink. And Jesus
commands them to roll away the stone
anyway. And you remember the rest of the
story. He makes that declaration that
he's going to declare for Steve Holdway
one day. Come forth.
And Lazarus. Comes it

had to be a scary sight comes
out of that tomb. The Bible says
he's still wrapped up in his grave
clothes and Jesus says unleash him, set
him free. Lazarus
back from the dead. As I
mentioned last week, just briefly, that
event caused. Jesus to
be Public Enemy number one with the
religious leaders. And it was at that
time that the high priest declared it's
better for one man to die for all
than for all of us to die. And
so he was too worried about Jesus
becoming a big deal in the Romans coming
in. And also, as I mentioned last week,
then the hit went out on Lazarus because
they wanted to destroy the evidence of a
man brought back from the dead.

These exhibits, well, there's another
one. It's the Saints in Jerusalem. You
remember this story from Matthew 27?
That when Jesus was being crucified, he
was on the cross. That.

The sky became dark.

Loud noises, there was rumbles and
Thunder and storms and there was an
earthquake. And the Bible says that the
tombs in Jerusalem, some of them split
open. My wife and I have been
there walking around Jerusalem. And you
got to understand these are ground level
supporters. So stone. With the slab on
the top, and some of them are ground
level. Some of them are like that high
off the ground, some of them that high.
Some of them have names. It's near the
area where some of the kings of Jerusalem
were buried. So it's an interesting
place. Well, with this earthquake, and by
the way, earthquakes are very, very
common in that part of the world and had
been. For 2000 years there.

Evidently the earthquake shifted some of
those slabs covering those sepulchers and
some of the people were raised. Can
you imagine that site there were brought
back from the dead. Now Scripture says

that they did not appear until after
Jesus rose from the dead. I don't
know. The meaning of that, maybe it's
because the Bible says that Jesus is the
first fruits of the resurrection. But
whatever the case, after Jesus was raised
from the dead, So after that Sunday
morning, some of those people, I don't
know, was it a dozen? Was it more? They
made their way into Jerusalem and
appeared to people. I mean, think about
how crazy is that? You bury
your elderly aunt and she's back, you
know, And yet God's Word declared that
that happened and there were witnesses.

Well, I could go on and on.

I'm not telling you all of them,

but let's make our way to the
best exhibit, and that's Exhibit G in
my list, right? The empty tomb, and
you know the story there.

If you have scripture turned there, open
yours up, turn yours on, whatever it is.

Beginning in verse 1 of chapter 16, when

the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,
Mary the mother of James and Salome,
brought spices so they might go to anoint
Jesus body. It had only been hurriedly
done on that Friday when he was
crucified. Verily, on the first day of
the week, just after sunrise, they were.
On their way to the tomb and they ask
each other who will roll the stone away
from the entrance of the tomb. It's like
they thought of this on their way. Like
this is kind of a big deal. I mean,
a huge stone that weighs a ton or two
tons. They were
distracted, they were grieving. They
didn't expect that Jesus would be
resurrected. Verse 4 And by the
way, this is one of the
two suspected places of the tomb
of.
On one of those.
Slabs that had been carved out
of solid limestone. The other one
is in Jerusalem, and that's the

one that's commercialized in a shrine.

But. They made their way to

the tomb and the Bible says that the

stone was very large and it had been

rolled away. As they entered the tomb,

they saw a young man dressed in a

white robe sitting on the right side and

they were alarmed. So an

Angel, right? Do you not be alarmed?

He said you were looking for Jesus

the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has

risen. Can I hear an Amen? He

is risen, He is not here. See

the place where they laid him. But

go tell his disciples, and Peter and

Peter. And Peter?

If you had denied your Lord

and Savior, wouldn't those be encouraging

words to you that the Angel

specifically named you for them to

go tell? What an encouragement.

Go tell the disciples and Peter, he's

going ahead of you into Galilee. So back

up North Sea of Galilee area. There you

will see him just as he told you.

Trembling and bewildered, the woman went

out and fled the tomb. They said nothing

to anyone because they were afraid. I

love the words by the Angel. In here,

the first set of words is fear

not right. And maybe that's a good

word not just for them. Like when

they saw this crazy thing, the tomb

stone rolled away. Jesus has gone, Angel

is there fear not. I'm just saying

maybe you got some stuff going on

in your life. This week, this year.

And it's causing you to worry about it.

It's causing you to be afraid of it.

And I don't know what the context of

your situation is, but I promise you that

the Lord wants to say to you as

well, Fear not. Don't

worry. Give it to God.

And the next set of words are come

and see. I don't know if we have

any skeptics this morning, but understand

this. Around America today, around the

world today, there will be plenty of people who still haven't made-up their mind about Jesus Christ. Could he be? Is he the Messiah, the resurrected? To see God the Son and the Son of God. And there could be people who have skepticism everywhere. I want to invite all the skeptics to come and see explore the truths and the the validity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the archaeology, the geology, the eyewitness accounts, the post resurrection accounts of Jesus walking on the earth for 40 days. I want you to seek, come and see Jesus. That's the invitation. Come and try me out. Trust me, I'll give you a dose of faith to help you along the way. But come and then the final set of commands is what? Go and tell when you've seen me, when you've experienced me, when I'm part of your faith story. Go tell somebody. Tell your kids and your

grandkids. Tell your neighbors. Pray for
divine appointments in your week that
you'll come across somebody that needs a
good word, that somebody that needs to be
nudged a little bit closer to God.

Go and tell. I love that part of
this. Well, we know that there are
skeptics, right? There are some that
would say that Jesus really never died.
They took him down from the cross, put
him in that cool tomb, and there he
revived. But think about that. You know
what the evidence is. The evidence
says that those soldiers, they weren't
the temple guards, they were the
professional Roman executioners were the
ones that nailed him to the
cross. A professional Roman ex well
executioner then took his spear and
did what to make sure Jesus.
Was dead. He thrust it into Jesus
side up into his long and heart
area. Jesus was dead. There's some
skeptics that say, well, it wasn't that

Jesus was really dead, we'll give it to you. But his disciples came and stole his body and then concocted this whole story. But if you look at the evidence, what was going on? Let me ask you, who was guarding the tomb? Roman soldiers see there was a suspicion by the religious leaders. Ohh, these disciples, they're gonna go and claim that Jesus rose from the dead to prove everything they taught about him is true. And so post some soldiers there it's too. Now these weren't again, temple guards. These were professional. Roman soldiers who were assigned to job What was the penalty for a Roman soldier who slept on the job who let his guard down? Death, alright. The tomb was being guarded. So this thing of the disciples stealing the body is an impossibility and we also know that then Jesus appeared. Let's review the order he first appeared to to

Mary and Mary Magdalene. By the way, women's no offense women, women's testimonies. Back then, we're not accepted right? They weren't the valid witnesses that are well respected man would be. And yet we know that the gospel writers all agree that Jesus appeared to the women first. Now if they're trying to concoct the story that everyone in that day and time would believe. They wouldn't say that was the case. So Mary, the two disciples on the road to this little town called Emeus, where Jesus all of a sudden is with them, walking them. And he prevented them from recognizing them until he had taught them what he needed to teach them. And when they sat down to eat and he broke the bread, then it's. Jesus. And then he disappeared. It's that first Sunday night of the resurrection, appearing to the apostles without Thomas. It's the next, one week later on Sunday, in that locked room, locked doors, closed

windows, everything, Jesus appears for a second time. This time, Peter is there. Beat Jesus appeared to his brother James. James who doubted him. The Bible says Jesus appeared to James. Maybe that's why James moved from being one who made fun of his brother and a doubter to the leader of the church in Jerusalem. The one who would call him my Lord and my God. Well, you know, it goes on and on. Down the road, Jesus appeared to to this Saul of Tarsus, the Christian hater, the Christian killer, and Jesus appeared to him and blinded him with his glorious light. And Saul's life was changed and he became Paul, the greatest missionary there's ever been. And so we understand that so much went on that gives us proof that Jesus really did come back from the dead. And that's why Paul would write in First Corinthians

13, Death, where's your victory?

Where is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law, But thanks be to God, who gives us our victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul left the rest of his life until his martyrdom, dying for Christ, sharing the good news that he served a risen Savior. Well, let me tell you a story. About a woman named Anu. A funny name, but she's from India. A Hindu woman in fact. She wasn't just a practitioner of Hinduism, but she became a priestess in the Hindu temple. She devoted herself to spending most of her days there meditating. Chanting. In fact, she was so identified with that particular Hindu God of Sheila, nicknamed the Destroyer, that she started to dress like these gods. And so she braided her hair with the seven braids, wrapped them up on her head, dressed in a gown, adorned herself with

sacred beads. Painted herself and she was like a little God, and the people really respected her. They would come to her and ask for divination for her to tell their fortunes. They would come to her when they needed a healing and for whatever reason, some of them were healed. You know, the devil has counterfeit powers too. And so she did this, but there was a problem. She had a daughter named Monica Monika, and this school child was three years old and began developing some terrible health conditions. What I mean by that? Boils on the skins, on the skin and nodules breaking out. Over this child's body and just the child was thriving, failing to thrive and just like dying before her eyes. And she was asking how can I heal other people and I can't heal my own beloved daughter. So in desperation, one day she did something that no Hindu. Would ever do. In their town there was

a little Christian Church. And in desperation she carried her child, her 3 year old daughter in her arms, limp. And her daughters are limp in her arms. And she went to this little church, afraid to go in, but she had heard that this church could deliver. People from evil spirits. Well, she went in and she writes that from the moment she stepped and stepped into that threshold that something was different and she felt hope. She explained her situation to those Christians and they said let's pray for. They gathered around her. She sat down and held that little child and they had these this time of. Intercessory prayer for that child, you know, with their eyes closed. And they finally got done with that long prayer session. And the mom looked down and there was no more boils, There was no more nodules. And this is her declaration.

Well, I'm shortening this. She gave her life to Jesus Christ, the one who

had healed her daughter. But that presented a problem. She could no longer be a priest at the Hindu temple or priestess. That presented a problem. She had to make the decision because now her family was saying what are you doing? And she had to make that declaration. How can I not serve the God who saved the life of my daughter? Jesus is real. She was baptized, she prayed for her husband, he came to faith in Christ. And yes, the family disowned them all and they had to go to another church an hour away. But they are believers today. See, Jesus is alive. And it's not just amazing stories like that. It's the one maybe you read this week. Day one of your prayer guide. For the anti Armstrong Easter offering that we passed out last week, day one, you remember that it was a husband and wife and they lead campus ministry at Purdue University. It's Jordan Adams and his wife Jessamy.

When we came in 2023, I knew God was

going to work. I had faith, but I never
imagined auditoriums overflowing and all
these people getting baptized. It's more
than anything we could have ever dreamed
up. 41 students,
41,000 students there and God worked
and lives were the resurrected Christ
changed these college students lives who
are seeking truth, who are seeking
something real. He writes,
we have students meeting Christ, getting
discipled and graduating and saying,
where's the next church plant? I
wanna move there. We're sending them
out as ambassadors of Christ. What
an amazing story. This Jesus is
real. This resurrected Savior. He's still
resurrecting, changing lives today. Well,
here's the last exhibit. It's you.
What do people see in you? Did they see
change in your life? Have they heard your
story? Can you give a
testimony that you know that you know
that you know that Jesus is alive and

you've given your life to him? Is he
still growing you? Are you going to grow
until you go? That's my philosophy.

Can anybody see that Jesus is
alive? That's the application today.

And what's at stake is one day we know
we'll stand before God and it's not going
to be an answer why I tried my best or
I was sincere. All that matters is do you
have a mediator that want to stand before
you and God? Can you say that Jesus has
taken away all my sins because I put all
my hope and trust in him and he is. My
Lord. And I'm acting like he's my Lord.
I'm obeying him. That's the question.

And the invitation today is that he
stands ready to receive you. Anyone they
would call out to him, anyone that would
believe that he's alive, he's
resurrected, he's here, he's the God man,
He's the Son of God. And he
wants to be your savior and your leader
in your life, the one who can keep
changing you. Well, God has made a way,

and if you're looking for a path today, I
can't give you a path. That's what the
rest of the world wants. They want a path
up the religious mountain to God. They
want a path. I can't give you
that, but I can give you a person, and
his name is Jesus, and he says to you
the same words he said to that older
sister Martha, before he raised Lazarus
from the dead. He said
to her. I am the resurrection and
the life. He who believes in
me will live even though he dies. And
whoever lives and believes in me.
Will never die. And then he says
this. Do you believe this church? You
gotta decide yes or no. And if
it's yes, let's start living like he's
alive. Let's trust him every day to
get involved in our lives, to have
a divine divine opportunity, divine
appointments. Let's live. Trusting that
He will make a way for
us today. Let me pray