

Sunday, April 5, 2026-THE JOURNEY HOME-PART THREE: THE LIFE-Pastor John Henry Raskin

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." - John 14:6

The Journey Completed

This Resurrection Sunday marks the joyful conclusion of *The Journey Home*, a series centered on Jesus' I AM statements in the Gospel of John.

- **The Way** — Jesus leads wandering hearts home.
- **The Truth** — Jesus meets our sin with grace at the Cross.
- **The Life** — Jesus conquers death and gives eternal life.

From the Tomb to Triumph

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb expecting death—but encountered Life.

- She arrived in grief and left in joy.
- She came to mourn a body and met the risen Lord.
- The Resurrection is not symbolic or metaphorical—it is real, physical, and victorious.

Jesus does not merely return to life—He is Life, and He gives life to all who believe.

Resurrection Life: Not Just Future, But Now

Jesus declared, "***I am the resurrection and the life***" (John 11:25), speaking not only of eternity, but of life today:

- Resurrection life restores hope
- Renews identity
- Rebuilds what is broken
- Brings peace
- Declares that fear, sin, shame, and death do not have the final word
- Because Jesus lives, everything changes.

The Death of Death

Before Christ, death was Man's great certainty. At the Cross, Jesus paid the full debt of sin. At the Empty Tomb, He defeated death itself.

Two Kinds of Life: Bios and Zoe

The New Testament distinguishes between two kinds of life:

- **Bios** — biological life
 - Physical, temporary, measurable
 - Begins in the womb, ends in the tomb
- **Zoe** — God's eternal life
 - Uncreated, indestructible, untaxed, undefeated
 - The life Jesus offers abundantly (John 10:10)

Jesus was not raised merely back to *Bios* but revealed *Zoe*—the very life of God.

Living as People Who Are Home

Because of the Resurrection:

- We no longer live only as citizens of this world
- God's eternal life now lives within us
- Death is no longer the end—it is a transition
- Our true home is in Christ, here and forever

"Because Jesus lives, the grave is not the end—it's just the beginning."

The Journey Home

The Cross paid the debt.

The Empty Tomb unleashed life.

The journey is complete.

We are home in Christ—now and forever.

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore." — Revelation 1:18

The Resurrection proves that death's power was temporary—and now broken forever

THE JOURNEY HOME-PART THREE-THE LIFE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy Resurrection Sunday!

This morning it is my joy to say to you “He is risen!” and your response is... “He is risen indeed!”

Today we have come to the glorious conclusion of our series “The Journey Home” based on the 6th of Jesus I AM statements from the Gospel of John.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

We’ve been on a journey through this series.

We started with Jesus as the Way, navigating the dusty roads of our own wandering and encountering our Shepherd.

Last week, we stood in the shadow of the cross to face Jesus as the Truth, where the reality of our sin met the greater reality of His grace.

Today we conclude our journey with the most triumphant declaration ever spoken as Jesus proclaims, I AM The Life.

Let’s take a moment to appreciate our incredibly good fortune to have been born after Christ’s victory.

Prayer...

In the 20th chapter of the Gospel of John, it is the third day after Jesus’ Crucifixion and Mary Magdalene is the first to arrive at the tomb.

Seeing the massive stone had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty she ran to tell Peter and John.

They came and examined the tomb and were puzzled to find the grave clothes with no body present and a folded head cloth.

Unsure what to do, the two disciples went home.

John 20:11-17

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, My Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I

am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'

Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb to grieve.

She came expecting to see death. Instead, she found life.

Mary came to the tomb in tears. She left with joy.

She arrived expecting to see a lifeless corpse.

She left having encountered her beloved risen Lord.

The Resurrection is not the story of a dead man who revived.

It is the story of the eternal Son of the Trinity who became a man and defeated death for all time.

The resurrection is not symbolic.

It is not metaphorical.

It is not merely spiritual.

It is real. It is physical. It redefines history. It is victorious.

Through His Resurrection Jesus has broken the power of death.

He has conquered the grave.

He is risen, never to die again.

Jesus does not just have life.

He has not merely returned to life.

Jesus gives life because Jesus is Life.

Let's go back a moment in the Gospel of John and look at Jesus' words to another Mary, Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus whom He raised from the dead.

This Mary was grieved because she believed that Jesus could have prevented her brother from dying.

Certainly, He could have done that.

But Jesus wanted to show His power over death even before His own death when He said this...

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Realize that Lazarus was not resurrected but resuscitated from death and brought back to human life.

Lazarus would eventually die again.

But Jesus told Mary that those that believe in Him will never die.

That they will be raised to NEW life. His Life. Eternal life.

Do you believe this?

When Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life," He is not speaking to believers only of our future.

He is speaking of our now.

He is speaking of the Resurrection life that empowers our lives today.

Resurrection life that means:

Fear does not have the final word

Sin does not have the final word

Shame does not have the final word

Death does not have the final word

Because Jesus is alive, death is no longer the end of our story.

Before Christ, the "wages of sin is death" as Paul says in Romans, was our inescapable end.

Death was a debt we couldn't pay and sin a prison we couldn't escape.

Jesus didn't just survive death; He defeated the claim death had on humanity.

The Cross dealt with the guilt of sin and offered humanity Peace with God.

The Resurrection deals with the consequence of sin and offers us Victory over Death itself.

Benjamin Franklin famously quipped that in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.

It's a cynical bit of worldly wisdom that we all nod to.

The one represents the relentless demands of the state, and the other the relentless march of time.

Death and Taxes are the two "debts" that we are told we must all eventually pay.

In Matthew chapter 22, the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with a tax question. "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

If He said yes, they reasoned, He would look like a puppet of the Roman occupiers.

If He said no, He would be branded as a rebel.

Jesus, with characteristic wisdom, asked for a coin and posed a simple question: "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

When they replied, "Caesar's," He gave the command that still echoes to us today:

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God."

As a man, Jesus acknowledged the "certainty" of the tax.

He paid the tax because the coin bore the image of the man who minted it.

In so doing, He showed that as long as we live in a world of ledgers and liabilities, we are bound by these things.

But they belong to the system of the world.

Because Jesus died and rose again, we are now citizens of the Kingdom of God.

On Good Friday, Jesus didn't just pay a temple tax or a Roman levy; He stepped into the ultimate "collection office."

He allowed the "certainty" of death to claim Him. He rendered unto the grave what the grave demanded.

But on that Sunday morning, almost 2000 years ago, the ledger was not just balanced; the entire system was dismantled.

By rising to new life, Jesus proved that death—the most "certain" thing in human history—was actually conditional.

That it only had power as long as sin held the invoice.

When Jesus rose, He showed us that while Caesar's image is on the coin, God's image is on the human soul.

While taxes may be a requirement of our citizenship on earth.

Victory over Death is the inheritance of our citizenship in Heaven.

If the Cross provided the payment for our peace, the Resurrection provides the power for our permanence.

The eternal life that Jesus promises those who believe in Him isn't just "living forever".

Eternal life is our biological life being transformed by His eternal, all powerful spiritual life.

So here we are today to celebrate a miracle, and we are using a single word—life—to describe two very different realities.

In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, the biblical writers were quite precise.

They used two distinct words to describe what happened between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday: Bios and Zoe.

Understanding the difference between these two Greek words is key to understanding why the Resurrection is both a biological and a spiritual revolution.

We get our word "biology" from the Greek word Bios.

This pertains to the life of the physical body... the life that requires oxygen, calories, and sleep.

Bios is the life that is measured by your heartbeat and tracked by your smart watch.

Bios is a beautiful gift, but it is a limited resource.

It is the life of "death and taxes." Certain and final.

Bios is the life that begins in the womb and inevitably ends in the tomb.

On Good Friday, with His physical death on the Cross, we saw the total exhaustion of Jesus' Bios.

When Jesus breathed His last, the biological machinery stopped. The cells ceased their work.

But then came Sunday morning.

The New Testament tells us that when the power of God raised the human Jesus from the dead it wasn't just a restart of His Bios.

It was the manifestation of Zoe.

Zoe is the uncreated, eternal life of God Himself. It is the life that existed before the stars were formed.

Zoe life doesn't need to eat; it doesn't need to breathe; it cannot be taxed, and it certainly cannot die.

The name of this church Abundant Life comes from John 10:10 where Jesus says **“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”**

Here John does not use the word Bios for life. He uses the word, Zoe.

Jesus wasn't promising those who believe in Him a longer biological life;

He was promising a different kind of life altogether.

A life here on earth infused with God's own life and power.

Because Jesus lives, He gives new life and everything changes.

When you accept "His Life," your spirit is resurrected immediately.

You are "born again."

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now available to help you break addictions, heal marriages, and find joy in the mundane routines of life.

In the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ the risen Lord tells John...

Revelation 1:18a

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

On the Third Day, the "Certainty of Death" was swallowed up by the "Reality of God."

The journey home is complete.

Our Home is the Zoe Kingdom of God on earth.

Let's look again at the last part of this scripture from the Gospel of John where we began this morning...

John 20:16-17

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, My Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

Put yourself in the place of Mary Magdalene today.

You who once suffered from spiritual and emotional torment, without hope of redemption, have found peace with God and a new life in Christ because He rose again.

Mary hears the Lord call her name.

The risen Christ calls Mary personally. Intimately. Tenderly.

Today, hear Him call you by your name.

As He gently urges her, He urges you and me: “Go and tell My brethren...”

The Resurrection is not the end of the story.

It is the beginning of our mission.

We are not keepers of a secret.

We are witnesses of eternal life.

In a world obsessed with death, despair, and darkness, we are able to proclaim:

Jesus lives. Jesus saves. Jesus reigns.

Not because of a religion that tells us what to believe.

But because we DO believe.

Because we have experienced the Risen Lord personally through the power of His Spirit.

Because of the Resurrection, you are no longer a citizen of Bios alone.

When your natural Bios is tired, the supernatural Zoe that lives in you can provide a strength that is greater than your own.

When your Bios life is threatened by sickness or age, your Zoe reminds you that your true life is "hidden with Christ in God" so that you needn't fear.

And when your Bios eventually reaches its end, Zoe ensures that the end is merely a transition to a new vessel that will never tire and never die.

This Resurrection Sunday is an invitation to an exchange.

It is the invitation to stop relying solely on the flickering candle of your biological life and to plug into the sun-bright power of God's uncreated Zoe life that is yours in Christ Jesus.

This Sunday we don't just celebrate that Jesus rose again.

We celebrate that He is Living now, and that His Zoe—His indestructible, joyful, and eternal life—is available to flow through our veins, our hearts, and our actions.

The debt of Bios has been paid by the Cross.

The gift of Zoe has been unleashed by the Empty Tomb.

We no longer live under the shadow of "Death and Taxes."

Instead, we live under the light of Grace and Life.

Caesar's coin and in fact his entire empire remain in the dust of history, but the empty tomb remains an eternal fact forever.

The debt has been settled. The certainties have changed.

Because Jesus lives, the only thing truly "certain" for the believer is that the grave is not the end—it's just the beginning of a life where sin has no power and death has no claim.

We are home in Christ... Here and now and forever.

Let's pray...