

Wk13

March 31, 2024

Call To Worship: He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed.

Matt. 28:1-7.

Prayer.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
He Lives

Psalm 16:8-11 (The Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the Psalms)

How Great Thou Art
I Would Rather Have Jesus
At the Cross

Offering. Prayer

Pastoral Prayer. Gospel Presentation.

Sermon Text. John 20:1-19

'Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And 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."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" and that He had said these things to her."

The Resurrection.

Is the act of being raised from the dead. The term is used in the Bible with three different meanings.

The Resurrection refers to the miraculous raisings of the dead back to earthly life.

For example, when Elijah raised a boy to life in 1 Kings 17.

Or when Elisha, raised the Shunammite's son in 2 Kings 4.

Or when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter in Mark 5.

Or When Jesus raised Lazarus in John 11.

Even the Apostles in the book of Acts raised two different people from death. Peter resurrected Dorcas in Acts 9 and Paul raised Eutychus in Acts 20.

OR, as we celebrate here today, As God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the grave on Easter Sunday.

Biblically, there is much precedent for a person being raised from the dead.

All of those resurrections are subordinate to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Of course those resurrections set a precedent for God being able to perform the action, but those resurrections do not hold the unique value that the resurrection of Jesus Christ holds.

Before we look in detail at these events of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, I must also share the future significance of resurrection as well.

In **John 5:29** Jesus talks about a future resurrection of all people.

In **Rev. 20:5-6** the Bible also emphasizes a future resurrection.

John 5:25-29 'Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.'

Jesus has already set the precedent for both His resurrection and a future resurrection when He teaches on this action in John 5.

Jesus refers to this '**hour that is and this hour that is coming.**' This statement creates a tension that we live between.

Rev. 20:5-6, After Satan is bound in the abyss. John records that there will be a resurrection. A future resurrection.

'Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the **first resurrection**. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the **first resurrection**; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'

Now I find this interesting.

John writes this Gospel account and John writes this Revelation account.

John says in **Revelation 20**, '**the first resurrection.**' It's not the first resurrection to occur, obviously we just listed at least 6 previous resurrections. But with regards to the final events of the world in the future there are two resurrections. With regard to Resurrections, the Scriptures talk about **2 types of resurrections**. A resurrection to Eternal life and a resurrection to Eternal Judgment. Jesus says the same in John 5.

Luke 14 'A resurrection of the righteous'

1 Cor. 15 a resurrection of 'those who are Christ's at His coming'

Heb. 11 talks about a better resurrection.

Paul writes in 1 Cor. 15 about '**the first importance**' and then Paul goes on to share about the acts and facts of the resurrection.

This is so important. Please meditate on the Biblical Fact, that if you have repented of sin, placed your faith in Jesus Christ, the very Spirit that raised Him from the dead lives in YOU.

This is why we can say, we are '**more than conquerors**'

This is why we can say, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'

Paul says **'It is for this reason that I bow my knees before the Father,** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man' Eph. 3:14-16

I know that in your unresurrected body, you might feel that you are lacking this internal life, BUT Spiritual Resurrection is NOT measured by feelings it is measured by faith.

Jesus Christ is RISEN. He is RISEN TODAY!

I know that He is with ME, whatever Men may say.

I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and Just the Time I need Him, He's Always Near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart.

You ask me HOW, I know He lives, He lives within My Heart!

It is for this reason, that we bow in prayer.

It is for this reason, that we stand in truth.

It is for this reason, that God, In His great mercy, has ascribed to us, the values and the virtues of Christ.

That God, the God of Great Love, the God of Unsearchable Wisdom, The God of Untouchable Holiness, Of Impenetrable Light, now looks upon us, and does not see our sin, He sees His SON!

'Come now, let us reason together' Isaiah 1:18

Christ is Risen, and God looks at you and says, come now, reason with Me, you are my son, you are my daughter!

We live in this tension of here and now. We live in this unresurrected body BUT possess this resurrected Spirit.

and looking forward to the future with Christ.

You and I, are born-again.

We are regenerated as Jesus taught Nicodemus, already having this resurrected spiritual life living inside of us.

It is this resurrected Spiritual life that is actually directing your life.

It is this Spirit, that raised Jesus Christ from the grave that is Providentially controlling you and the circumstances of your life.

When you come to a crossroads, and you say to yourself, should I do this or should I do that, the decision is actually already determined by the Spirit that is inside of you!

The Resurrection Spirit is in you and will guide, IF you have come to believe in the events of this resurrection.

Q: Does this mean that you are without sin? No. But it does mean, is that you are actually aware of your sin.

There are Christian religions, where people claim to live a life free of repentance, and I say the only way to live a life free of repentance is to be free of this resurrection Spirit.

Because **to know** the death of Christ for our sin.

To know that we have Union with Christ on His merit not ours.

To know that He has been resurrected and promised His same spirit to live in us, and for us To know this, and yet, to be unaware of our own sin nature, would be tantamount to denying the purpose of all of the events themselves.

Paul said if a person were to do that 'their faith would be in vain'.

The author of Hebrews says, a person who does such is 'trampling the Grace of God underfoot.'

You and I sin, but you and I sin less. But we do not sin less because we have become better people, but instead because the Personhood of Christ has taken over more of our personhood.

You and I begin to sin less because the Spirit that Raised Jesus from the grave lives in you and is controlling more of you.

The more the Spirit that Raised Jesus Christ from the grave has control of you the more you become aware of your sin and

Psychological Traits have taken over many people's worldviews.

Narcissim is not a trait of psychology it is a trait of a person who is unaware of their sin and its effects, on themselves and others. Narcissim is in essence a lifestyle of selfishness. That's not a psychological default, it's a spiritual one.

Co-dependence is not a relational construct that enables sinners to keep sinning. Instead, it is a fellowship model of those who do not have resurrection life.

We must see, we must embrace, that fellowship as Christians is based off the Spirit that lives inside a person.

'do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever, for Christ and Belial have no fellowship, what fellowship has light with darkness' 2 Cor. 6

It is a first principle, and it is of first importance, that you must come to faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The same power that raised Jesus from the grave **lives in you**.

Rom. 8:11 'But if **the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus** from the dead dwells **in you**, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead** will also **give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**'

This is not good news. **THIS IS GREAT NEWS.**

Jesus Christ, who not only died for our sin, without just cause, went even further.

Jesus went so far as to place in us the very Spirit that raised Himself from the grave.

Friends, I seriously don't even understand how to explain the magnitude of that. Frankly, I can't fully explain the magnitude of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us BECAUSE OF CHRIST!

I've been talking about the doctrine of Union with Christ a lot recently, and, for good reason.

We have **Union with Christ** in His beating, mocking, scourging, trial, crucifixion, death, burial. BUT we also have it in His resurrection.

We have Union with Christ in His Resurrection.

All of this is by FAITH in His Spirit.

Eph. 2:1 '**you were dead** in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. BUT GOD, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved, and raised us up with Him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus'

You were dead. – that means, you didn't have any ability. You didn't chose Him, He chose you.

Formerly walked. – when we were dead, we lived a sinful life.

The spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. -this is done on a spiritual level.

We all formerly lived. -this was a common unity, this was a common fellowship, you had to be called out of this!

BUT GOD. – the except is that God took action. God did something about the problem of our Spiritual death.

Rich Mercy, Great Love – Let me tell you something, if you want to be rich in something get Rich in Mercy. God is not only rich in mercy, but He is Great in Love. Get great at Love. These are things to figure out. These are things to commit to. Figure that out. Figure out pouring out mercy upon mercy. Dear Lord, your life will be sweeter than last year's honey! Made us alive with Christ.

As a result; saved us and raised us up with Him. – God did all of this for us!

Why do we celebrate Easter? It is here. God raised Christ from the grave and He didn't just leave it at that. He raised us as well.

Back to the text of John 20. -----

NOW...look back at the text. Who showed up to the tomb first? **Mary Magdalene.**

Mary Magdalene is **not exactly the most reputable figure.** That is of course, unless she has been chosen by God.

Have you ever..

Have you ever noticed how in God's economy He uses the least of these?

Have you ever noticed how God takes the speckled goats and blesses His people?

Have you ever noticed how Jesus takes the old wine and makes it new?

Have you ever noticed how Jesus takes the last and makes it first, and takes the first and makes it last?

Have you ever noticed how God takes the foolish things of the world and uses those very things to stop the mouths of prideful men?

Have you ever noticed how Jesus takes a person sinking so deep in sin and does not condemn them, but lifts them up, washes them off, sets them on a secure path and blesses their life?

Have you ever noticed that?

Have you ever noticed how after God does this to you, you aren't the same?

Have you ever noticed how the most loyal people are the people that are the most loyal to Christ?

Have you ever noticed how the people who have been forgiven the most are the most forgiving?

Have you ever noticed

Well, if you have noticed that, it's because God has placed Resurrection Life in you and God is going to grow that in you.

Just like He has done with Mary Magdalene.

Q: Who will bring a charge against God's elect (Rom. 8)? Does anyone in church history really want to play the self-righteous card against Mary Magdalene.

Some people, might be wise to ‘**judge not lest they should be judged first**’ or ‘pull the plank out of their own eye’–

Personally, I could care less about the sin Mary Magdalene committed and care far more about the Savior she is committed to.

v. 1 ‘Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.’

The first day of the week.

This is a reference to Sunday.

From this day forward, it was this day that Christian believers set aside as the day to make known the work of God through Jesus Christ.

Rev. 1:10 ‘I saw in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.’ -That’s John, I think John, given He is here on this day, holds the qualifications to tell us if it is the Lord’s day or not.

What we call, **The Lord’s Day.**

It was this day and this event, that was the driving topic of the preaching of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts.

It was, The topic of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that provided the primary content of the first 30 years of preaching in the book of Acts.

Peter preached in Acts 2.

‘Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves known – this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But **God raised Him up again,** putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.’ **Acts 2:22-24**

Again Peter preached, ‘Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom **God raised from the dead,** a fact to which we are witnesses.’ **Acts 3:12-15**

When Peter goes to the Gentiles to preach the Gospel in Acts 10

‘God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through

Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) - you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. **God raised Him up on the third day** and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.' **Acts. 10:34-40**

The Sovereignty of God. The Pre-determined Plan of God. The Crucifixion of Christ and always, the Resurrection of Christ, all liter the preaching of the book of Acts.

The Lord's Day, Sunday, our worship services, are not about the Resurrection once a year, they are about the power of the Resurrection every week!

Every time we gather it is about the Resurrection of Christ.

Salvation is a matter of confessing, and believing in the resurrection of Christ.

Rom. 10:11 'if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved'**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a primary doctrine of the Christian faith and the acknowledgement of it is a key part of the Gospel that saves.

This information about the resurrection is so important that Paul dedicates an entire chapter to it in **1 Cor. 15**.

Mary Magdalene.

If you are unfamiliar with Mary Magdalene, she is mentioned a few places in the Gospel, primarily for three reasons; **first** that Jesus delivered her from 7 demons, **second** that her and a number of other financial wealthy women supported the ministry of Jesus Christ (**Luke 8**).

Thirdly, she is best known for her role as being the first to appear at the tomb of Jesus Christ.

Some have attributed a notoriously sinful past to Mary Magdalene, from being prostitute to having a private relationship with Jesus Christ, Himself and bearing a Son from Christ.

A past that is actually not found in Scripture. Luke only records that she was troubled by 7 demons and the Good Lord Jesus, out of His mercy delivered her from those demons.

It is been an unfounded assumption that she would have been a prostitute or anything like that. Frankly, we don't know. We aren't told.

This heresy, and misrepresentation of Scripture, was made popular in Dan Brown's best-selling book, the Da Vinci Code.

What we know more than anything, is that Mary Magdalene was a person under the bondage of sin and is now a person under the total commitment to Jesus Christ.

Mary is committed to Christ's ministry financially (**Luke 8**), and she is committed to Christ's ministry in energy, in time, in all of her personhood. She is a true disciple.

Early while it was still dark.

As a wise disciple, she gets shows her devotion early in the morning.

Proverbs 31 actually tells us that a wise woman '**rises early.**' I would say, Mary sets a great example to follow.

A faithful woman.

Christianity has always depended on both the faithfulness of men and the faithfulness of women.

She is a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

v. 2-10 'So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him'

So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.'

Grave Robber.

Linen wrappings and face-cloth.

Did not understand the Scripture.

It is possible to be one of the elect, the saved, and not understand sound doctrine. But God is not going to keep you in that state perpetually.

You will eventually be taught. A teacher of the Scripture will come a long.

'how can they know unless they hear' Rom. 10

A teacher to 'snatch you from the fire' Jude

v.11-18 'But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And 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."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, "I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.' Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her."

Weeping.

Angels.

Rabboni, Teacher.

Pastoral Prayer.

Victory in Jesus.

Benediction.

1 Cor. 15:3-8 (Paul's testimony of the Resurrection.)

Small Group Questions:

1. What does the resurrection accomplish in our life?
2. How can we recognize that we have resurrection life even when we don't feel like we do?
3. How can you encourage each other to focus on eternal life? Have a discussion about the reality of eternal life.
4. How does Mary Magdalene relate to us in the understanding of evangelism and discipleship?