

Resurrection Sunday

1 Cor 11:23–26 || “Until He Comes”

North Center || March 31, 2024

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We all know ... how a single ... moment ... can change the course of history.

- Like April 19, 1775, when one person squeezed the trigger of his gun, and that one shot sparked the **American Revolutionary War**. It became known as “*the shot heard round the world*” ... and that changed the history of our country forever.¹
- On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, declaring that “*all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be, free*” ... and that changed our history.
- Or that moment in **Genesis 12** when **Abram & Sarai left their home** to follow God into the unknown ... that decision changed the course of history forever.
- The day (c. 800 AD) that an Ethiopian goat farmer first discovered the energizing effects of **coffee beans**... changed the course of history forever. 😊
- That day in 1983 when **cellular mobile phones** first became available to the public... or April 30, 1993, when the **World Wide Web** became available to the public ... those days changed the course of history.

But the most world-changing moment in human history took place on Resurrection Sunday, approximately 2,000 years ago. That moment is what we celebrate today. What is the significance of this Sunday in history? Well, let’s start with what happened three days earlier...

On Thursday...

- Jesus gathered w/ His disciples & He broke **bread** & poured **wine** as a picture of His coming sacrifice.
- He knelt down & washed their dirty feet with **water** to give them a picture of what His love looks like.
- After supper, in the garden, He poured out His heart to His Father, His sweat like drops of **blood**.
- He was **betrayed** by a friend (price of a slave), **arrested** as a criminal, & **abandoned** by His followers.

On Friday...

- He was illegally put on **trial** in the middle of the night.
- He was **beaten, stripped**, tied to a **whipping** post, and **flogged** until He could barely stand.
- He was **mocked** for calling Himself a king as the soldiers shoved a **crown of thorns** on His head.
- The same crowd that had sung His praises (just a few days ago) now called for His crucifixion.
- He was traded for murderer and **condemned** to death.
- He was forced to **carry His cross** through the city streets and up the hill of Golgotha...
- His arms were **tied** to the cross beam, and His feet were **tied** to the vertical post beam.
- Then the soldiers drove **spikes** through His wrists and through His feet... just to cause pain.
- His cross was **lifted up** for all the world to see... the Son of God **displayed like a criminal**.
- And in this darkest moment, He was **forsaken** by His Father.
 - *Why?* Because He had taken our sin and made it His own. The Bible says that “*He became [our] sin*” (2 Cor 5:21), and the ultimate horror of sin is that it separates us from God. On the cross, Jesus was taking our place. He was cancelling our debt – by paying it Himself.
- And after He had given every ounce of Himself for us, He gave His Spirit into the hands of the Father, and He died.

¹ On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court **legalized abortion**, and in the 5 decades that followed, over 60 million babies were aborted in the US.

To make sure that He was dead, the guards took a spear and shoved it in His side. And then, as they pulled the spear out of His broken body, blood and water poured out (*John 19:34*).

- This was the picture that Jesus gave His followers when He instituted the Lord's Supper.
 - As the **bread was being broken**, it was a picture of His broken body.
 - As the **cup was being poured out**, it was a picture of His blood.
 - As the **water was wrung out into the basin**, it was a picture of the water that would flow from the whole in His side.

And so the Bible says that “*every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death...*” This was Thursday & Friday, and so before we get to Sunday, I want us to take this moment right now to proclaim the Lord's death together by coming to the Table together.

THE LORD'S TABLE

1. After I give thanks for the bread and for the cup,
2. We are going to eat and drink together – *in remembrance of His death*.
3. And then we are going to sit in silence for a moment in memory of that Saturday that His body lay in deathly silence within the utter darkness of a sealed and guarded tomb.

PRAY

That was Friday ... and Saturday ... but then Sunday came!

On Sunday morning, this world changed forever!

As the dawn broke across the eastern horizon, the darkness ran for cover – because the body that had been deathly, breathlessly still for three days.....moved.

- The Son of God had descended into the depths and destroyed the power of darkness forever.
- The Lamb of God had taken away the sin of the world...

On Sunday morning, the earth shook, the guards became as dead men, the stone of the tomb was rolled away, and the Light of the World came out of that grave. When the women came looking for His body, an angel of the Lord was sitting on the stone. And he said to them, “*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!*” (*Luke 24:5–6*).

He had risen, just as He promised.

- Our sin, *paid for*.
- Our shame, *gone*.
- Our enemy, *conquered*.
- Our death, *defeated*.
- Our future, *secure*.
- Our suffering, *for a moment*.
- The glory that awaits, *forever*.

“*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, life is worth living just because He lives.*”

Oh, the songs we get to sing because He lives!

LYRICS

*“There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave **He rose again.**
And as He stands in victory,
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His, and He is mine.
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.”*

*“Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death. Life is mine to live.
Won through your selfless love.”*

*“Then came the morning that sealed the promise.
His buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.”*

*“**The ground began to shake. The stone was rolled away.**
His perfect love could not be overcome.
Now death where is your sting?
Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated.”*

*“**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death.**”*

*“**Death could not hold You,** the veil tore before You.
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.
The Heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again.”*

*“**Up from the grave He arose,** with a mighty triumph o’er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain.
And **He lives forever** with His saints to reign.
He arose. He arose. Hallelujah, Christ arose.”*

*“On the day when You arose.
The darkness ran for cover.
For the King of Kings has claimed His throne.
Now until Forever.”*

*He is “The Lion of Judah who **conquered the grave.**
He is David’s root and **the Lamb who died** to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue.
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son.”*

*“O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O Church, come stand in the light.
The glory of God has defeated the night.”*

*“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.”*

*“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future.
This life is worth living – **just because He lives.**”*

And there is coming a day...

*“When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And there proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art.”*

He came the first time, *just like He said He would.*
He gave His life for our salvation, *just like He said He would.*
He rose from the grave, *just like He said He would.*

And one day, He is coming back to take us home to be with Him forever, just like He said He would.
And we celebrate this promise every time we come to the Lord’s Table together.

You proclaim the Lord’s death **until He comes.**
This meal doesn’t just look back at His death. It looks forward to everlasting life.
“Until He comes” – celebrates that He came back from the grave ...
and it celebrates that He is coming back one final time to take us HOME with Him forever.

Last week, we celebrated that **King Jesus came** (*just as He promised*)
This week, because He lives, we celebrate that **He is coming again** (*just as He promised*).

His broken body – *not the end of the story.*
The blood and water that poured from His broken body – *not the end of the story.*
The silence and darkness and death in the tomb – *not the end of the story.*

Which is why we can remember His death with joy and hope.

And this is also why we can face our own suffering and darkness with hope...because it’s not the end of our story either. **Jesus is the end of our story**, and there is coming a day when **He will come** (*not as our sacrificial lamb but as our victorious King*) and He will take us home to live with Him in the paradise of His presence forever.

Until He comes ... we can face tomorrow ... because He lives.