

MIRACLES

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023 - Pastor Jason Carter

He is risen. He is risen indeed!

Luke 24:1-7 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

The good news of Jesus is not something to convince people of. You can't be talked into it. The gospel must be revealed, and that can only happen as God reveals it to individual's hearts.

The Bible is like a tapestry. It is intricately detailed and connected over centuries with one story. It is composed of thousands of verses that interconnect and the longer it is studied, the deeper it becomes. We see how the Bible connects as one thread and that one thread is always pointing to Jesus. The story of His life, death and resurrection is a story of redemption and hope for those who believe.

There are several historical accounts of the resurrection:

- The Gospels and their details, in addition to Paul speaking in 1 Corinthians that Jesus appeared to over 500 witnesses.
- Atheist and agnostic biblical scholars say something happened.
- Disciples were willing to die for Jesus after His death.

For thousands of years, lives have continued to be transformed by Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life.

- Has Jesus' death and resurrection transformed your life yet?

- Like the Bible does, how are you pointing people to Jesus?

John 11:21-44 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

"Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled."

"Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." Then Jesus wept.

Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

Jesus goes to his friends in their worst moment. Martha knows Jesus but is limited in her understanding of what He can do. We are familiar with the story of Jesus, but we all have limits in our thoughts too:

- Where were you when I was suffering?
- Why didn't you intervene?
- Why would a loving God allow this to happen?
- What will you do with my pain?

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Jesus is going to perform this miracle for several reasons:

- Man can't resurrect man and He was confronting religious tradition and cultural norms (a traditional superstitious thought in Jewish culture about a person's spirit hovering for 3 days, while Jesus comes on the 4th day).
- The miraculous will continue to draw people to Him.
- He loved Lazarus as a friend.
- He is **the God of the impossible** but a **God that is personal**.

John 11:30-35 "Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled."

The original Greek means that he expressed "furious indignation." He was angry, knowing the pain of living in a fallen world. Jesus knew. He knew what He was about to do and He knew

Lazarus was coming back to life, but **He also knew this wasn't the way it was supposed to be.**

John 11:34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see." **Then Jesus wept.**

He cried.

He knew Lazarus was dead before he got the news, but still, He cried.

He knew Lazarus would be alive again in moments, but still, He cried.

He knew this world was not home.

He knew death here is not forever.

He knew eternity and the kingdom better than anyone else could.

And yet, He wept.

Because this world is full of pain and regret and loss and depression and devastation.

He wept.

Because knowing the end of the story doesn't mean you can't cry at the sad parts.

-author unknown

- This is what Jesus does and this is a picture of what He meant through the statement "I am the resurrection and the life."
- We are dead in sin and we don't know it until we meet the author of life.
- Sin separates from God. Jesus died for our sin and looks at the brokenness, the shame, the bondage, the trauma and the things that have caused parts of us to die and He is deeply moved. He weeps with us, grieves with us, sits with us in our emotions.
- **Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

John 11:38 "Jesus was still angry (deeply moved) as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. "

John 11:43 "Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

It was personal for Jesus to heal Lazarus.

It was personal for Jesus to die for the sins of the world.

It is personal for Jesus to extend to us salvation.

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." CS Lewis.

- *What are you going to do with Jesus?*

- *Do you know Him?*

- *Are you making Him known?*

God still rolls away
stones and ***brings
dead things back to life.***

*Watch the MIRACLES testimonies that were shared during this service ([click here](#)).