

4-9-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: Jesus Never Said Goodbye

Purpose: Proclaim the power of the resurrection to prove the words of Jesus in the Bible are true, give us strength, peace and hope to face fear and trouble and give us eternal life.

Truth for Today: The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in human history.

Text: Matthew 28:1-6

Topic: Resurrection, Easter, Hope, Eternal Life

Jesus Never Said Goodbye

- I. Introduction: Pic Honor LaNell for 40 years of marriage...is that all you wanted me to say?
 - A. Today 2.2 billion Christians¹ are remembering the historical account of the most significant event in human history, the resurrection of Jesus. [Mt. 28:1–6 (NLT) Early on Sunday morning (NCV) Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven...and rolled the stone away... Pic 4 The soldiers guarding the tomb shook with fear because of the angel, and they became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. 6 **He is not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would.**] Since that miraculous morning the world has never been the same.
 - B. I’ve been thinking about my message for several weeks and an idea keeps resonating in my mind, before Jesus died, He never told His disciples goodbye. Standard practice in hospitals or hospice is when a person is about to die, family and friends are called in to say their final goodbye. Goodbye has a sense of ending or finality. But instead of goodbye, Jesus said, ‘I’ll see you later’. [John 16:16–18 (NLT) “In a little while you won’t see me anymore. **But a little while after that, you will see me again.**”] Jesus predicted He would come back to life after He died. His death was deliberate; it paid the penalty for our sins and then He conquered death so we could have eternal life.
 - C. Today I’ll tell you 3 reasons why the resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in human history: (1) The resurrection of Jesus proves His

words in the Bible are true. (2) The resurrection of Jesus gives us peace, strength, and hope to face fears and troubles. (3) The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope we can live after we die.

D. Title: Jesus Never Said Goodbye

II. The resurrection of Jesus proves His words in the Bible are true.

A. Angel to women at tomb, [Luke 24:5–8 (NLT)...“Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6...He is risen from the dead! **Remember what he told you...**7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.” 8 Then **they remembered that he had said this.**] Jesus predicted his death and His resurrection from the grave. No one else in human history has ever died, come back to life, and never died again.

Because these words were true, everything else He said is true. E.g.

1. The Bible, God’s Word, is the source of all truth. Jesus speaking to God the Father about His followers, [John 17:17 (ESV) Sanctify them (*set them apart for holy service to God*) in the **truth; your word is truth.**] Jesus said the Bible, God’s Word is absolute truth. Our culture is confused about right and wrong. The Bible tells us what God thinks about issues like gender confusion, marriage, sexual morality, and abortion. Culture says the opposite; who will you believe?
2. He can give us a better life now. [John 10:10 (NLT) My purpose is to give them a **rich and satisfying life.**] This is now, not heaven. He isn’t saying we won’t have any problems, but the overarching theme of life can be ‘Life is better with Jesus’!
3. Heaven and hell are real, and He is the only way to heaven. [John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father **except through me.**] Why? Only Jesus dealt with sin in a way that was acceptable to God. We all sin; sin separates us from God and ultimately brings judgment. In His death on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sin so if we believe and follow Him, we will have eternal life.
4. If you’re a skeptic, atheist, agnostic I encourage you to read the book or watch the movie, Pic “The Case for Christ” by investigative journalist Lee Stroebel. He set out to disprove the resurrection and the evidence led him to become a Christian. Quotes: (1) I started out as an atheist, utterly convinced that God didn’t create people, but that people created God in a pathetic effort to explain the unknown and temper their

overpowering fear of death. (2) “I have traveled the world. I have searched high and low. I have found nothing that satisfied my mind, my heart, and the deepest longings of my soul like Jesus does.

III. The resurrection of Jesus gives us peace, strength, and hope to face our fear and trouble.

A. [John 16:32–33 (NIV)...in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! (*NKJV be of good cheer*) **I have overcome the world.**” Mt. 28:20 (NLT)...**be sure** of this: **I am with you always**, even to the **end of the age.**”] How’s this possible? When we are born again, God the HS comes to live inside us.

1. Christians have trouble like everyone else, sometimes even more because the world rejects Jesus and us. E.g., Hope and peace: An unbeliever faces trouble by themselves while the believer finds a refuge/peace in Jesus. E.g., surgery both the Christian and the non-Christian trust the dr., nurses, and anesthesiologist, but believers have confidence an unseen hand is at work. [Isaiah 41:10 (ESV) **fear not, for I (God) am with you....**]

2. E.g., of resurrection power to strengthen us: Peter denied Jesus 3x and went into hiding for fear of his life. Then Jesus was resurrected, and Peter was filled with HS. A cripple man was healed, Peter told people about Jesus and the same people who killed Jesus wanted to kill him. [Acts 4:5–10 (NLT)...the council of all the rulers...7...demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” 8 Then Peter...said...10 Let me clearly state to all of you...that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ...the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.] How could change like this happen? The resurrected Jesus gives us the HS for courage and strength to face adversity. // our life.

IV. The resurrection of Jesus gives us confidence we can live after we die.

A. Pic. Hospital room with a friend or loved one facing death. We can say a final goodbye or see you later depending on how we respond to what Jesus said, [John 11:25 (NLT)...“I am the resurrection and the life. **Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.**] There’s a fact we all must face; one day we are all going to die but we can face death with dread or hope. I have hope, do you?

V. Conclusion: I'd like to give you an opportunity to receive Jesus as your Savior

A. John 1:12 (NLT) But **to all who believed him and accepted (ESV received) him**, he gave the right to become **children of God.**] // gift The most important questions we should be asking is, If I believe Jesus died for my sin, how do I receive Him as my Savior? How do I become a follower of Jesus? How do I find God's forgiveness and find the assurance I can have eternal life?

1. Be willing to turn from your sin and turn to God. The Bible calls this, repentance.
2. Pray and ask Jesus to forgive you and come into your life.
3. Follow Him every day.

B. I want to give you a chance to make a decision to follow Jesus right now. We want to pray with you to receive Jesus as your Savior or recommit your life to Christ. If you do, I'll ask you to raise your hand and come to the cross to pray. Why should we make our commitment before others? Jesus said, [Mt. 10:32 (NCV) "All those who **stand before others and say they believe in me**, I will say before my Father in heaven that they belong to me] The Christian life isn't lived in private; it's lived in public every day.

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Pew Research Center

VII. Supplemental Material

A. I. Jesus was 33 years old. He selected 12 guys to be His best friends and disciples. He literally lived with them for 3 years. They laughed and cried together; they saw miracles together; they had become as close as family. Jesus knew the next morning He would die on the cross. Now it was Thursday night and Jesus knew it but would be their last time together but He never said goodbye. When they went to the garden to pray He never said goodbye. When the Roman soldiers arrested Him He didn't say goodbye; the next morning in the courtyard He didn't say goodbye. When He carried His cross to be crucified He didn't say goodbye. He was nailed to a cross at 9am and hung there till 3pm... Just before He died He said, "It is finished"... but never said goodbye.

B. I. Instead of goodbye, Jesus said, [Mt. 16:21 (NLT)... he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of... the leading priests, and the teachers

of religious law. He would be killed, but **on the third day he would be raised from the dead.**]

- C. Luke 24:1–7 (NLT) But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."
- D. [John 13:1–5 (NLT) Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end...]
- E. [Hebrews 13:5–6 (NLT) Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." 6 So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"]
- F. [1 Cor. 15:21–22 (NLT)...just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.
- G. John 3:16 (ESV) "**For God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- H. What must I do to have eternal life? Acts 16:29–31 (NLT) The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."