



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Be Bold and Courageous
Topic	His Resurrection, My Transformation
Speaker	DSP Chua Seng Lee
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Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Experience the Transformative power of the Resurrection

There is only one way to heaven, and that is Jesus. Yet are we able to make a suitable defence for the faith that we have? The resurrection is not only proven; it is also a powerful fact that affects us even in the present day. This sermon makes a case for the significance of the resurrection by first establishing the facts of the resurrection through apologetics, then proceeds to point out how the powerful the resurrection is, and finally leads us to confront the powerful effects of the resurrection in our lives.

Proven Fact

The Resurrection is a proven fact and there are three arguments used to establish the accuracy of this defence. The first fact is that of the empty tomb, the second is the numerous people that Jesus had met after his resurrection, and the third is the establishment of the Church in history. The first two facts are examined in detail in this summary.

The undisputed claim of the empty tomb is strong evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. While there were disputes as how the tomb came to be empty, there are none that contend that it was indeed empty. Hence we turn our attention to the manner in which it was emptied. The first possibility, that it was stolen by the roman soldiers, is highly improbable as if the soldiers had truly stolen it. It would have been far too easy for them to quell the rise of Christianity which we know that they had motive to. The second is that the disciples themselves stole it. However, this is equally unlikely as we have evidence in the other gospels demonstrating the lack of courage of the disciples before the crucifixion of Jesus. Each had fled to preserve oneself and Peter himself denies knowledge of Christ three times. This rules out a complex, highly coordinated tomb robbing in which they would have to execute in order to rob the highly guarded tomb of Jesus. The only alternative left to us is that Jesus had truly risen, and this is further established by the next point we will examine.

Jesus' appearance to more than 500 people after his resurrection is alluded to on several occasions in the new testament. These people were witnesses that he had indeed been resurrected. Their testimony can only be explained by 3 main possibilities. The first is that this was an elaborate plot and scheme. This is highly unlikely as many of these people were persecuted severely for these beliefs. It is thus improbable that so many of them would have held on to a fabrication to the point of heinous death if the resurrection was a lie. The second possibility was that they had a sort of mass hallucination. Yet the idea that a mass hallucination where everyone has the same delusions is absurd. Even if we were to believe that these people had some type of coordinated mass hallucination because of their relationship with Jesus, it would still be inadequate to account for the conversion of Saul. Saul was a prosecutor of the followers of Jesus Christ who had no reason to feign blindness and hallucination on account of Jesus. We are left then with only one alternative. Jesus had truly resurrected.

Powerful Fact



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Jesus' death on the cross is a powerful fact. In 1 Corinthians 15:16 Paul writes that if Christ were not raised, our faith is in vain, we are still in sin, we perish after death and we are most to be pitied. However, in contrast we must recognise that the resurrection of Christ reverses all the above statements. Our faith is fruitful, we are redeemed for our sins, we will live even though we die and we are least to be pitied. This is the transformative power of the resurrection.

This transformative power transforms lives. The example of Philip Ng, the CEO of Far East Organization, was given. Philip attended the Alpha course where his paradigms were changed. He was challenged to first believe before he understood and in response he took the step of faith. This step of faith resulted in him experiencing the transformative power of Christ that not only changes the life after this one, but the life we currently live as well.

Present Fact

The power of Christ is still actively at work today. As the only living founder of a major religion, Jesus gives us a unique opportunity. We are able to go straight to the Father because of Him and lives are changed as they are surrendered to Him. Testimonies of the 'brain dead' coming back to life because of Jesus, Muslims coming to Christ and the healing of hundreds in the name of Jesus happen even today and we must be aware of the power of God even today.

God deeply loves us and it cost Him dearly to send Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. How much more will He not give us of Himself? God wants to heal us today. He also wants to speak to us today.

Questions

1) What are some of the common doubts regarding the Resurrection?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) What is the biggest way that your life has been changed and touched by Jesus?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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3) What areas in your life do you need the transformative power of the Resurrection most right now?

(Fill In Answer Here)
