



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Resurrection – What does it mean to you?

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THEME The Triumph of the Cross

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Resurrection – What does it mean to you?

For many of us, we may have been brought up to believe that death is taboo. Something that we do not think about, much less speak about. Yet for Christians, death is something that we are very aware of. Not only because it is something that we all will have to face one day, but also because without death, we would not be able to talk about resurrection.

And that is the part that interests all of us! The world, the papers, the news, has no shortage of reports on death, but they never tell us what happens after death. That is something that the world has so little to say about, yet it is something that the bible has so much to tell. Life after death! Resurrection! What does it mean to you?

Resurrection as Revelation about God

In Luke 7:11-23, we watch as Jesus carries out one of the three resurrections that was recorded in the bible. We see that it is about the death of a young man. Not just a young man, but someone's son. In fact, someone's only son. And not just someone, but a widow. A widow who has lost her only son. That means that there is no one else in this world for her. As we read that against the backdrop of a mighty Jesus who was travelling around to heal the sick and give sight to the blind, perhaps the poor widow was wondering if He cares. Even if He cares, can He do anything about it? Even if He can, is that what He desires to do?

And the answer that the bible tells us, is a resounding YES!

1. Resurrection Reveals God's Love

Even though Jesus knew that it was against Jewish custom to touch a dead body, and he did not know the widow, he felt compassion for her when he saw the widow. His first instinct was to comfort her, to speak to her personally and tell her, "Don't cry."

Don't cry. Jesus knows your pain. He knows your hurt. The Man of Sorrows knows your sorrow. And He is here for you and with you. Grieve, but know also that the King of heaven loves you. You are not alone, for God is with you. Jesus loves you, and we love you too.

2. Resurrection Reveals God's Power

It is Jewish custom to bury someone on the same day that he died but here, death's victory was short-lived. As He reached out and touched the dead body, Jesus shows that He has no fear of death. When the dead man sat up and began to speak, Jesus gave him back to his mother again. For it was God who gave this widow a son many years ago, and it was God who was returning her son to her again. It was God who gave him life when he first came into this world, and it was God who gave life to him again. This same power is still available today!

For all of us who have accepted Him into our lives, God is constantly slaying the sin within us and transforming our lives. There is this power from God in us that we can say 'no' to sin such that what sin once gripped us and tore us apart, it has now lost its power. When we fall, we know we can come to God to confess and He who is faithful and just, will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Embrace this new life in Christ for His glory! We can because of what Jesus has already done for us on the cross. The Lord is saying to us –get up in your spirit-man and begin to live your life for Jesus! This is so that when people look at our lives, they will be filled with awe and declare, "Hallelujah!" Praise the Lord! God has visited His people with power!"

3. Resurrection Reveals God's Desire

Even as we read about or experience the power of God in our life, there are still times when God does not seem to act in a way that we would like Him to, and we start to question. Just as John the Baptist questioned Jesus in v19. "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

John was in prison, and possibly, wondering why God would leave him there. Do we sometimes wonder why God has given us so many challenges to face? John was focused on how God would save him from his earthly predicament, yet God's desire is for our eternal well-being.

After all, what good is it for the blind to see and the deaf to hear if they do not know the God who gave them life. Even in resurrection, life that was given at birth is given again. God's desire for us and our loved ones is to believe and accept Jesus into our heart today! God loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins. God has promised that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life!

So, receive Jesus today! For those who already know Jesus, get up and live this life for Jesus. Share this good news. Death and sin have been defeated. Embrace this victory we have in Christ!

Conclusion

Do not be discouraged when things are not going our way. When sorrows come, when challenges seem too huge to overcome, when friends and family reject us or our message in Christ, know that the God of the universe is still in control. His ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Hold fast to the promises that He has given us through His word. He loves us. His power is available to us. And He wants us to come to Him and be blessed.

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the 3 revelations of the Resurrection of Christ shared in the sermon is particularly meaningful to you?

2. Share about a time when you questioned God. What was that journey like for you and how has it been since then?

3. For those of us who know Christ, we know the wonderful eternal hope in Christ that we all have to look forward to. For many others, they may not yet know of this hope. Who are those in your life that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to bring hope to and how will you do that?