



Reaching our Neighbors Pt 2: The Resurrection Revisited!

He is Risen! April 12, 2020

Text: Luke 24:1-12

Happy Resurrection Sunday! Jesus is Alive. He is Risen! As He Himself testified in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 1:18 (KJV) *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Here at CRCC, we've started a theme this month on "How do we reach our Neighbors." Last week, we found out that we would do well to model Jesus' determination!

How else might we reach them? With love? Yes! With acts of kindness? Yes? But ultimately with this most GOOD of all GOOD NEWS:

Jesus is Alive! And because of His perfect life, death, and Resurrection...

Hebrews 7:25 (KJV) *....he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Context:

1. Much has happened since our LORD triumphantly entered Jerusalem (Palm Sunday):

- Upon entry, our LORD went and cleansed the temple, many say for a second time. (Lk 19:45-48)
 - He got into much conflict with chief priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees over many issues (His authority, taxes, the resurrection, etc.) (Lk 20)
 - He delivered the Olivet Discourse, where among other things, He taught that the Kingdom would be taken from His religious persecutors, pronounced seven woes upon them (Matt 23), and predicted the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. (Lk 21:20-24)
 - His enemies plotted against Him (Lk 22:1-2), one of His own betrayed Him (Lk 22:3-6), He instituted the LORD's Supper with His disciples at the Passover (Lk 22:7-23), suffered greatly in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-46), and was denied and abandoned by Peter and the disciples. (Mk 14:43-50; Lk 22:54-62)
2. He was arrested, taken before Council of religious leaders, Pilate, and Herod. (Lk 22:63 - Lk 23:1-16)
3. He was mocked, struck (Lk 22:63-66), humiliated and abandoned by the crowds ("Give us Barabbas; Let Him be crucified!"). He was stripped, flogged, mockingly dressed in purple and a painful crown of thorns, and crucified. (Matt 27:15-31)
4. For 6 long hours, He suffered on the cross for our sins! (From the 3rd hour (Mk 15:25, to the 9th hour, Mk 15:34).
5. Then was He taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27:57-61). He was there for three days (Matt 27:63).

For those of you who might not know, a question:

Who is He? Who is this Jesus? (The Bible tells us clearly....)

1. **John 1:1-5 (KJV)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and*

without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life; and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

2. **John 1:14-17 (KJV)** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. **15** John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. **16** And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. **17** For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
3. **Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV)** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
4. **Colossians 1:13-20 (KJV)** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: **15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; **20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Did He really die such a terrible death? (Every few years, I like to read the below quote:)

The fatal suffering of Jesus Christ is one of the most well-established facts of ancient history. Even in today's modern age of science and technology, there is a virtual consensus among New Testament scholars, both conservative and liberal, that Jesus died on the cross, that He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, and that His death drove His disciples to despair. The best medical minds of ancient and modern times have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christ's physical trauma was fatal.

Taking into account today's medical knowledge, we can reconstruct our Savior's suffering. His torment begins in the Garden of Gethsemane after the emotional Last Supper. There Jesus experienced a medical condition known as *hermatidrosis*. Tiny capillaries in His sweat glands ruptured, mixing sweat with blood. As a result, Christ's skin becomes extremely fragile.

The same night, Jesus is betrayed by Judas, disowned by Peter, and arrested by the temple guard. Before Caiaphas the High Priest, Jesus is mocked, spat upon, and beaten. The next morning, Jesus — battered, bruised, and bleeding — is led into the Praetorium. There He is stripped and subjected to the brutality of Roman flogging. A whip replete with razor sharp bones and lead (spheres) reduces His body to "quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh." As Christ slumps into the pool of His own blood, the soldiers throw a scarlet robe across His shoulders, thrust a scepter into His hands, and press sharp thorns into His scalp.

After the soldiers mock Jesus, they take the scepter out of His hand and repeatedly strike Him on the head. A heavy wooden beam is thrust upon Christ's bleeding body, now in critical condition, and He is led away to a place called Golgotha. There the Lord experiences ultimate physical torture in the form of the cross. The Roman system of crucifixion had been finely tuned to produce maximum pain. In fact, the word excruciating (literally "out of the cross") had to be invented to codify its horror.

At "the place of the skull," the Roman soldiers drive thick seven-inch iron spikes through Christ's hands and feet. Waves of pain pulsate through His body as the nails lacerate His nerves. Breathing becomes an agonizing endeavor as Christ pushes His tortured body upward to gasp small gulps of air. In the ensuing hours He experiences cycles of joint-wrenching cramps, intermittent asphyxiation, and excruciating pain as His lacerated back moves up and down against the rough timber of the cross.

As the chill of death creeps through His body, Jesus cries out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" — which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' In that anguished cry is encapsulated the greatest agony of all. For on the cross Christ is bearing the sin and suffering of all humanity. Then with His passion complete, Jesus gives up His spirit.

Shortly thereafter a Roman legionnaire drives his spear through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into Christ's heart. Immediately, there rushes forth blood and water, demonstrating conclusively that Jesus has suffered fatal torment.

In light of all the evidence, to believe that Jesus merely swooned stretches credulity beyond the breaking point. It means that Christ survived six trials, lack of sleep, the scourge, being spiked to a cross, and a spear wound in His side.

—Excerpt from the article, "*The F.E.A.T. that demonstrates the Fact of the Resurrection*" by Hank Hanegraaff

Why did He come in the first place?

1. Short answer: because God is holy and we are sinners desperately in need of a Savior. His Name means Savior! (Mat 1:21)
2. Longer answer.... 😊
 - a. After succumbing to the tempting of the devil, Adam and Eve fell into a life of sin terminated by death. (Genesis 3)
 - b. But even then, God had a redemptive plan! (Gen 3:15)
 - c. This plan required God choosing a people for Himself, from which would come His Messiah. (Genesis 12)
 - d. This people were shown God's holy character through His Laws, summarized by *The 10 Commandments*. (Exodus 20)
 - e. It was impossible for this people (Israel), or anyone else to perfectly keep the Law. (James 2:10)
 - f. Therefore One who could, One who was and is without sin, was needed! (Hebrews 4:15)
 - g. And this One couldn't just be a man; He had to be God so His sacrifice could be laid to the account of not just Himself....but many! (Philippians 2:6-11)
 - h. Because of His holiness and perfect justice, God must punish ALL sin. (Isa 13:11; Rom 6:23)

- i. Sin is defined as “lawlessness” or “transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). *“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” (1 Cor 15:56)*
- j. Jesus, the perfect keeper of the Law and our High Priest, took the punishment and wrath (the Father’s holy and just anger) for sin upon Himself on the cross. (1 Cor, 15:3; Heb 2:17; 1 John 4:10)
- k. Therefore, only Christ can save. There is salvation in NO OTHER NAME. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)! 😊
- l. **AND.....His Resurrection seals and ratifies His sacrifice! It proves both the validity of His mission and His deity! All other “religious leaders” are dead. Jesus is ALIVE!**

He is Risen!

1. **Do you really believe Christ rose from the dead? I mean really believe it? Because if you do, your life should reflect the glory of that revelation as much as possible. Your priorities from the moment of that belief should be changed forever!**
2. He did rise from dead! Hank Hanegraaff offers a wonderful defense of this truth. He calls it the “**F.E.A.T.** that demonstrates the fact of the Resurrection.”

Fatal Torment – As we read above, there is no doubt He died on the cross!

Empy Tomb – No body was found! Christianity could not have survived if there was!

Appearances – People saw Him alive! (see below)

Transformation – Through the Apostles, the whole world was turned upside down! Would they have risked their lives for what they knew to be false?

3. In our text, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome went to an empty tomb; they were understandably “perplexed!” Thankfully, the angels let them know that He wasn’t there but is risen!” (vv5-6) But that’s not all...
 - a. He eventually appeared to His disciples (Mark 16:12-14), and...
 - b. More than 500 others! *“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.” (1Cor 15:6 ESV)*
 - c. Matthew describes a magnificently chilling , post-resurrection scene:

Matthew 27:52-53 (KJV) *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

4. **He is alive! He is risen! Death is swallowed up in victory! Hallelujah!**

What does His Resurrection really mean?

1. Paul puts it better than I ever could...

1 Corinthians 15:14-22 (KJV) *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are*

of all men most miserable. **20** But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. **21** For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

2. In other words, if Christ suffered and died and stayed dead, then WE stay dead. His “staying dead” would mean Christ wasn’t who He said He was, and didn’t do what He said He would do...and Christianity crumbles. Without the Resurrection, we’d have NO HOPE, NO SAVIOR, NO CHANCE, NO TRUE JOY, and NO ETERNAL LIFE!
3. **BUT...since He got up bodily, it provided the “proof of the ages” that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son!**
 - This means His sacrifice was sufficient for all He would choose and call!
 - This means our faith isn’t futile! We have true HOPE!
 - Like the old song says, “He rose, He rose, He rose from the dead...and the LORD shall bear my spirit home!”
 - **Truly, the bodily Resurrection of Jesus is our very hope to ourselves be raised “imperishable, in glory, in power, and immortal (1 Cor 15:42-53)!!”**

1 Peter 1:3-5 (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

What do I do now?

If you are already a Christian....

1. Do what the disciples did and taught...what every disciple of Jesus MUST do and teach...
 - a. Preach the Gospel: Mark 16:15!
 - b. Make disciples: Mathew 28:18-20!
 - c. Walk in holiness and obedience: 1 Peter 1:13-16!
 - d. Hate the world; live for eternity: 1 John 2:15-17.....

Colossians 3:1-6 (KJV) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

2. And do it all “unto death” for that is the call for every true follower of Christ. How can anyone who has embraced the Resurrected Christ live for long without a holy, loving, passion? Let’s go! 😊

Luke 9:22-26 (KJV) Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. **23** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. **24** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. **25** For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? **26** For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

If you are not a Christian....

1. Repent (Remember, you have broken God's Laws.)

- **Matthew 4:17 (KJV)** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, *Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- **Acts 2:38 (KJV)** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- **Act 17:30-31 (KJV)** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to **repent**: (31) Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- **2 Corinthians 7:10 (KJV)** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2. Believe the Gospel (Put your trust in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin)

- **John 6:40 (KJV)** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
- **Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- **Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV)** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Closing Thoughts:

I pray that during this current crisis, you will experience the mercy of Jesus. He died for sin that we might have life and that more abundantly.

For the believer, I pray that you will see the ultimate futility of amassing worldly trinkets and treasures; that your priorities will realign towards Kingdom things.

I pray that despite all that is going on around us, you will nevertheless have peace and joy in Jesus. If we can be of some service to you, please let us know.

Benediction