

Series: Simply Jesus (1/17/19)

Title: The Resurrection

Text: John 20

Resurrection is Unique to Christianity:

Mohammad is dead, his grave is the Green Dome in Medina.

Buddha is dead, his grave is in Sri Lanka.

Joseph Smith is Dead, his grave is in Nauvoo, IL.

All Men die, but only 1 arose to die no more!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a Feature of Christianity, It is the Main Event!

Resurrection is the POINT of Redemption.

The whole purpose of God in Creating & Redeeming His people, it to Raise them to Eternal Glory so we can worship Him forever!

Resurrection to Eternal Glory, not just Glorified spirits but in Glorified Bodies.

Our resurrection is secured by the power God demonstrated in Jesus' Resurrection.

Because He lives, we will live too.

(John 11:25-26) *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever*

liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not JUST a demonstration of His Power, but a VALIDATION of God's acceptance of Jesus' Offering for Sin.

Because God was satisfied by the Offering Jesus made for Sin, God the Father Raised Him from the Dead.

(Rom 1:4) *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

He arose from the dead, Ascended into heaven, He sits at the right hand of God the father and intercedes for His people.

The veil was Torn from the top to the Bottom, ending the Ceremonial Law, and the Sacrificial Systems of Worship.

(Heb 10:12-14) *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Christ will bring believers up to eternal glory spiritually, and bodily in resurrected form.

Because that offering is credited to your account @ salvation, God will also raise you from the dead.

The Resurrection is the greatest event in History.

The Resurrection is the most significant expression of the Power of God on the behalf of Believers.

It is the Cornerstone of gospel promise. (Rom 10:9-10)

It is Necessary for Salvation!

You cannot be a Christian & Deny the Resurrection.

(1 Pet 1:3) *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.*

We are Saved to be Raised!

The purpose of Salvation is for God to have a resurrected people.

(1 Cor 15:1-2) Believe, Receive, & Stand.

Sunday, the 1st day of the week, became the day when the 1st church began to meet.

Not on Tuesday or Wednesday of the Crucifixion, but Sunday, the day of Resurrection.

This is not a Roman Catholic Creation.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been meeting on Sunday, since the 1st Resurrection Day.

NOTE: No One Actually Saw the Resurrection Event!

They saw the Risen Christ, but not the actual event!

It is not an event you need to see, it the person who was Dead and is Alive for evermore.

No Bible writer tries to explain the science or Pathology of the Resurrection.

There is no rational explanation of the Resurrection.

It is like all other Miracles documented in the bible.

It is a Divine Creative Event of God. Life from Lifelessness.

The Creation account of the Entire Universe in Genesis Ch1.

You go from Absolutely Nothing to Everything, in 6 days.

There is No Explaining the Science of Creation, because it is a Divine Creative Event of God.

The Facts are stated, & the Results are obvious around us.

But God gives us no explanation in Scripture as to the Science of HOW it happened.

It is a Divine Creative Event of God.

I believe the Scientific Study & Experiments of evolution to understand & reproduce the creation of the Universe is Folly.

It is a Divine Creative Event of God.

Illus: A scientist asked God how He created life. God said He took some dust, fashioned Adam, & breathed life into him.

The scientist said, “*I can do that, watch*”, he reached down to scoop up some earth, God stopped him and said,

“Hey, Get your own dirt!”

God makes no attempt to Explain the Science of Creation.

Time, Space, & Matter came into existence at the same instant!

It is a Divine Creative Event of God.

You cannot study how Creation happened from a Rational, Observable, Scientific, Pragmatic Perspective.

You can only accept the Miraculous Declaration that the Creator gave us in Gen 1.

In the beginning, (Time), God created the Heavens (Space), & the Earth. (Matter).

The Trinity of creation, from nothing.
Only God can actually Create Everything from Nothing.

We don't know how Any Miracles of Jesus happened. We cannot humanly diagnose how any of them happened

We have no explanation of the how the Resurrection happened.

It doesn't matter how it happened, it happened as all other miracles happened, by the Divine Creative Act of God.

No one was there, No one saw it happen, we just have the eye witness accounts of the over 500 people who saw the Risen Christ.

How it happened doesn't matter, That it happened, Does matter.

Evidence of the Resurrection:

The Empty Tomb:

The Angelic Testimony:

The Eye Witness Accounts:

In John 19, the Apostle John demonstrated to us the Jesus was in charge of His Arrest, His Sentencing, His death & His Burial.

Now John shows us in Chapter 20 that Jesus is in Charge of His Resurrection, proving that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

The OT promised the Resurrection:

(Ps 16:10) *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

(Is 53:10b) *“See his seed, he shall prolong his days,”*

Jesus promised He would rise.

(John 2:19-21) *Destroy the temple & in 3 days ...*

(Matt 12:39-41) *Sign of Jonas the prophet...*

The Apostles Preached the Resurrection:

1st Sermon: Acts 2: Peter Preached the Resurrection.

Paul preached the Gospel: Death, burial, Resurrection.

I. The Empty Tomb:

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

First Day of the week~ Sunday just before Morning.

Jews measure their days, Evening and Morning.

when it was yet dark

Mary's Devotion: Jesus' love for her Rescued her.

Jewish Custom: the soul lingered for up to 3 days.

Mary was the 1st person to the Tomb.

Mary was 1 of 4 that were at the Cross, Burial, etc.

It was light enough for her to see that the stone was gone.

The Stone was rolled away, not to let Jesus Out, but to let the witnesses IN!

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

She Assumes the Worst.

It was not beneath the Jews/Romans to present His body as proof he was a false Messiah.

She believes that Jesus is still dead.

Her shock is clear evidence that she was not expecting a resurrection.

It is clear evidence that she was not part of a plot to fake a resurrection.

Why did she think they stole His body? 1 Final Insult.

Why did go to Simon Peter: 11 looked to him for leadership.

(Lk 22:31-32) *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

“the other disciple, whom Jesus loved,” = John

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

They wanted to see & assess the situation themselves.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

Twice, John says he outran Peter.

He wanted us all to know he was fast.

We assume that Peter was middle aged & John was ~19.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Why didn't John go in?

He would defer to Peter's Leadership as Jesus foretold.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Also, this was not a big space, like we see in movies. There probably wasn't a lot room for both men comfortably.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

They believed Mary's report that the body is gone.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

They did not know what happened Saturday.

The dots have not connected yet. (Lk 24:12)

The Jew remembered that Jesus had said He would rise after 3 days.

That's why they asked Pilate to secure & guard the tomb.

They put a Roman Seal on the Tomb, and contingent of Roman soldiers to guard the Tomb.

God sent a localized Earth quake & an Angel to roll away the stone. (Matt 28:2-3)

The Roman Guards Passed Out: (Matt 28:4)

The Soldiers Didn't know what had happened.

The Soldiers didn't know why the body is gone.

Mary, Peter & John, make no mention of them, so they are gone by the time they show up.

The Roman guards knew they had failed in their mission.

The Roman guards goes to the Sanhedrin to report.

WE have the Testimony of the Empty Tomb,
The Removed Stone, The Runaway Guards, the Grave
Clothes neatly in place.

Why would somebody unwrap the body?

(Jn 19:39) Nicodemus brought 100 lbs of spices and cloth.

The spices & Aloes kept the smell of decomp tolerable.

Why would somebody unwrap the body?

The wrappings kept all the body parts together.

Besides if they had unwrapped him, it would have been a nasty, gooey mess in a pile, not neatly laid out where the body was.

He passed through them like He did when passed through the locked doors to appear to disciples. (Vs 19)

Everyone knew Jesus was dead.

The Roman Guards knew it, didn't break His legs.
The Roman Executioner knew it, piercing his side,
Blood & water came out proving His heart had burst.

Joseph & Nicodemus knew it when they wrapped the body which took a couple of hours to complete.

Everyone knew the Body was there on Wednesday.

The guards knew it, the Sanhedrin knew it when the Stone was placed and the Seal affixed.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

The Apostles expected Jesus to Reign, but He died.

They were too afraid to go looking for His body on display, or in a ditch where they could be arrested as co-conspirators.

Clearly The Body was there, and then it wasn't.

II. The Angelic Testimony: *11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,*
In disbelief of the evil of mankind, looks one more time.

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Now you have my attention.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

I don't think she understood who she was talking to.

III. The Eye Witness Account:

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

When your eyes are so full of tears, when your heart is broken, when your hopes are dashed, its hard to see clearly.

When your hopes are dashed, Jesus will draw near to you.

(Lk 24:13-34) 2 on the Road to Emmaus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

I know you were only following orders, so tell me where he is.

16 Jesus saith unto her, “Mary”.

She knew that voice. - That voice loved her.

That voice Rescued her. - That voice taught her.

That voice freed her from 7 devils.

She will never forget that voice.

Do you know His voice.

(John 10:14) *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

(John 10:27) *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: Are YOU His Sheep?*

(John 10:28) *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

**Do you know the voice that gave you Eternal Life?
It was His voice that Rescued You!**

It is the Voice that will raise you from the dead!

(John 5:25) *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

- Can you imagine HER Elation!

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

She was about to Cling to Him and never let Him Go! He just stopped by to comfort her, she would see Him again.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. In an other gospel, they said that she was crazy. “Idle tales”

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Just as He passed through those walls, Jesus passed through the Grave clothes.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Visible Evidence of His identity & Resurrection. Everyone of these men went out with out fear to preach.

Everyone of these men died a martyrs death. Their eyewitness testimony, & the boldness is direct proof of the Resurrection.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

At this Moment, Jesus Commissions His Church! With the same authority God invoked in his incarnation, Jesus was invoking in the Church's Commissioning.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Empowerment would Come at Pentecost, but they had the Holy Ghost.

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Who ever you preach the Gospel too & is saved, is released from the Power & Penalty of their Sins.

Who so ever you preach to & denies the Gospel will die in their sins, retaining the full Measure of the wrath of God.

(Jn 3:18) *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. How many of us are like him?

Thomas Missed Church -Thomas Missed the Blessing
Thomas Missed the Message-
Thomas Missed the Savior!

Thomas missed the opportunity to serve others.
Thomas missed the opportunity to encourage others,
Instead of discouraging others: (Heb 10:24)
The Apostles had to tell Thomas, when they could have spent their time telling others.

Thomas should have been there.

Thomas could have been there.

Thomas hindered the ministry of the Church.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Thomas' Unbelief did not Altar the Truth.

Thomas' Unbelief did not rob the others of their experience.

Unbelief is the greatest sin a Christian commits.

Unbelief is the thief of our Joy.

You miss more than a message when you miss church!

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Church on Sunday! BO YAH!

Notice Christ's Invitation to Thomas.

You and I have the same invitation to handle Him & see!

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Well its about time!

Look who finally showed up to the party.
It is about time Thomas got with the Program!

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (Heb 11:6) w/o faith it is impossible...

How About you?

Have you caught up with the rest of us?

Stop looking for a sign from God.

(2 Cor 4:18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Thomas was numbered with them.

Thomas had forsaken God's house,

Thomas had dishonored God.

Thomas suffered the Loss of God's blessing.

Thomas's belief was build on sight & not faith!

My Hope is not on things in this world.

My hope is in the one who rose from the dead!

We demonstrate the Spirit filled Life just like Apostles did.

They were in there place. (Acts 2:46)

They refused to Compromise (Acts 4:18-20)

Discard Everything that is not Truth: (Acts 29:18-20)

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

Jesus had no trouble validating His message to them.

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

The Resurrection is vital for Salvation.

The purpose of John's Testimony, was to be a testimony to us.

What will you be?

A Mary: Freed to serve with full devotion?

A Peter: A Frightened Failure turned into a Bold Proclaimer.

A Thomas: Better Late than NEVER!