

SERMON: LESSONS FROM THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:5-6

(5) And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. (6) He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Introduction

The doctrine of the resurrection is pivotal in the Christian faith. Belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the belief in His bodily resurrection are essential to salvation. Paul makes this clear in Romans 10:9.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus is indeed a historical fact. The Eleven saw him (Mark 16:14). The women worshipped Him (John 20:16-17). Mary Magdalene wanted to cling to Him (John 20:16-17). Two disciples conversed with Him on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-34). Thomas was invited to touch Him (John 20:27-29). He ate in the presence of His disciples (Luke 24:42-43). A large crowd saw Him ascend back to heaven (Acts 1:9). He appeared to Paul (Acts 9:5). Remember, it only takes two or three credible eye witnesses to establish a fact in a court of law.

However, there is a word of caution to true believers. Sometimes we are so busy trying to convince unbelievers that the resurrection of our Savior is a historical fact, that we forget the many lessons we can learn from this miraculous event. Let's briefly look at five of these many lessons.

Exposition

1. Defeat Does Not Determine Destiny.

(From the human perspective He was totally defeated.)

(Humiliated And Executed.)

(All Things Work Together For Good For Those Who Are Called.)

2. Abandonment Does Not Prevent Accomplishment.

(The Disciples Ran Off And Left Him.)

(Peter Denied Him.)

3. Revision Is Sometimes Necessary To Achieve Results.

(Jesus Informed The Disciples To Go Quickly To Galilee And Meet Him.)

(They Were Afraid To Travel And Hid In Jerusalem.)

(Jesus Modified His Plans And Stayed In Jerusalem To Minister To His Disciples.)

4. Barriers Are Not Blockers.

(The Stone Was Rolled Away.)

(Jesus Penetrated The Walls Where The Disciples Were Hiding.)

(John 20:19.)

5. Divine Timing Leads To Triumph.

(Three Days Later He Rose.)

(How Long Are Your Three Days?)

(Can You Wait On The Lord?)

(Faith In God Means Trusting His Timing.)

Closing Thoughts

Long before Dante' wrote his classic literary work, *The Divine Comedy*, this Divine Comedy, that was planned before the foundation of the earth was laid, had already taken place. I use the term comedy in the classical sense. It is a story with a happy ending, as opposed to a tragedy, which has a sad ending. A classical comedy could be humorous- but did not have to be. It just had to have a happy ending. Thank God for this happy ending- the resurrection of our Savior. Without this happy ending, our faith would be in vain and the church would have been built on a false foundation. Without this happy ending, Jesus would have been just another dead historic figure. He lives! Because He lives, I have hope and I can face tomorrow. Because He lives my prayers are answered.

Yes, Jesus Christ is gloriously alive. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, yet He is knocking at the door of your heart (Rev. 3:20). If you have not done it already, please open the door and let Him in. He is too honorable and respectful of your free will to kick down the door. You must open the door yourself! Let Him come in. He will become a friend who will stick closer than a brother. Let Him go with you along the pathways of life. Walk with Him as He leads you in a meaningful life with significant service to others. Jesus Christ is alive. Hallelujah!

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

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