

The Importance of the Resurrection  
4/12/09

I. **Please turn with me to \*Mathew Chapter 28:1-8\* and let's read it together**

- a. Today, millions of people around the world will gather together for the single purpose of remembering the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
  - i. Churches will be flooded with people, plays and dramas will be performed, songs will be sung, and sermons will be shared
  - ii. All for the single purpose of remembering the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
  - iii. Yet, sadly, a large percentage of the people celebrating this glorious event don't truly understand the importance of the Resurrection
  - iv. They celebrate Resurrection Sunday merely as a holiday – an excuse to go to church with the family, and after, take the family to the park
  - v. However, the Resurrection is far more important than an excuse to take the family to the park for a picnic
- b. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the single most important, significant, and impactful event in all of human history
  - i. This single event has many implications and great significance to all who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ
  - ii. And this morning, I want to take the time and talk about the importance of the Resurrection in the life of the believer
  - iii. *Why is the Resurrection so important to a believer? Why is the Resurrection so important to the Christian faith?*
- c. This morning I will seek to answer these questions and I will do so by looking at “three” things concerning the Resurrection:
  - i. First, the *Assurance* we have because of the Resurrection
  - ii. Second, the *Acceptance* we find because of the Resurrection
  - iii. Third, the *Anticipation* we maintain because of the Resurrection
- d. Let's begin our study

II. **1<sup>st</sup> – “The Assurance we have because of the Resurrection”**

- a. As a Christian we have full assurance that our faith is “True” and “Reliable” because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
  - i. In a world full of lies and deception this is extremely important...
  - ii. Think about all the different religions and worldviews that are practiced in the world today – “*How do we know that we have the truth? What assurance do we have that we are practicing truth?*”
  - iii. The Christian faith rests on the historical fact of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - “*The Resurrection gives us Assurance*”
- b. You see, the Resurrection was the ultimate, final sign that confirmed Jesus of Nazareth was who He claimed to be, “The Son of God”

- i. In **Romans 1:4**, the apostle Paul declares, “*Jesus declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*”
  - ii. Jesus was not merely a miracle worker, a good moral teacher, or a great man, but He was the Son of the living God, the promised Savior
  - iii. And His Resurrection from the dead was the indisputable sign which confirmed to us that He was who He claimed to be, “*God Almighty*”
- c. Jesus Himself told us that His Resurrection from the dead was going to be the ultimate sign given to us proving His *true identity* and His *absolute authority*
  - i. In **John 2:18-20**, we read that after Jesus cleansed the Temple from the money changers and vendors the Religious leaders confronted Him
  - ii. And they asked Him, “*What sign do You show us, since You do these things?*” i.e. “*Give us a sign that proves You have authority to do this*”
  - iii. Jesus answered them, “*Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up*”
  - iv. Interestingly, John gives us the interpretation and tells us “*Jesus was speaking of the Temple of His body*”
  - v. The Resurrection was going to be the irrefutable sign to the world that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Son of God Cf. Matt. 12:38-40, 16:4
- d. Furthermore, the Resurrection not only confirms the “*Person and Identity*” of Christ, but it also confirms the “*Promises and Claims*” of Christ
  - i. During His earthly ministry, Jesus of Nazareth made many radical and unique promises and claims
  - ii. Let’s take a look at some of the promises and claims made by Jesus...
- e. In John 11:25-25, the Lord Jesus declared, “*I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*”
  - i. Jesus claimed that He is the “*Resurrection and the Life*” and those who believe in Him shall never die – this is a radical, unique claim
  - ii. However, the Resurrection confirms that Jesus was speaking the truth, you see, the ultimate proof that Jesus is the “*Resurrection and the Life*” was His own resurrection from the dead
- f. Also, in John 14:6, the Lord Jesus declared, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”
  - i. This claim in particular is a very radical, unique claim by Jesus – in essence, Jesus is claiming that He is the only way to the Father/Heaven
  - ii. Yet, because Jesus rose from the dead, we have all the reasons in the world to believe that He was telling the truth
  - iii. Jesus’ resurrection confirmed all the “*Promises and Claims*” He made
- g. Therefore, you can see why the Resurrection brings such a great sense of assurance and comfort to the life of a believer – “*\*Decisive Evidence\**”

- i. It is important for you to understand that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is not a fable or a myth invented by His followers
  - ii. In all actuality, the Resurrection is one of the most well documented and historical reliable events of ancient history
  - iii. We have reliable evidence attesting to the Resurrection, and this morning, I briefly want to share a few of them with you:
- h. Evidence #1 – “The Eyewitness Testimony of the Apostles”
  - i. The Apostles were eyewitnesses of the Resurrection – after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and apostles over a period of forty days
  - ii. He presented Himself alive by many infallible proofs; He was seen walking, talking, eating, inside, outside, by many, and by few
  - iii. The apostle Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 15:6** that over 500 disciples saw Jesus at one time
  - iv. Therefore, we can have complete confidence in the eyewitness testimony of the Apostles concerning Jesus’ resurrection
  - v. Now, some would argue, “*What if the Apostles were lying and simply made the whole story up?*”
  - vi. I would simply reply to this question with a question, “*What would the Apostles have gained by making up a story about Jesus’ resurrection?*”
  - vii. Prestige? Wealth? Power? Popularity? Authority? – Let me tell you what they gained...
  - viii. Some were decapitated, some were crucified, some were stoned, some were beaten to death, and some were even hanged
  - ix. *The Apostles sealed their witness of the Resurrection with their own blood and we can trust their testimony...*
- i. Evidence #2 – “The Empty Tomb”
  - i. Both Christians and Non-Christians agree that the Tomb was empty...
  - ii. It would have been impossible for Christianity to begin in Jerusalem if the dead body of Jesus had still been in the tomb
  - iii. Understand, the Religious Leaders hated Christianity with a passion and they wanted to see the end of this “New Movement”
  - iv. And all they had to do was go to the tomb, grab the dead body of Jesus, parade it around Jerusalem, and Christianity would be over
  - v. However, they were unable to do this because there was no body, the tomb was empty, He was not there, He rose from the dead
- j. Evidence #3 – “The Transformation in the lives of the Apostles”
  - i. After Jesus’ death, the Apostles were scared, scattered, and skeptical – their leader was dead, their dreams were shattered, and their hopes were gone

- ii. Yet, within a few weeks these same fearful Apostles were courageously and openly proclaiming that Jesus rose from the dead
- iii. ***What caused such a drastic change in their lives?*** It wasn't because they saw an empty tomb, but a Risen Savior
- iv. The Resurrected Christ changed the Apostles lives, He changed my life, and He will change your life if you allow Him to
- k. Therefore, with all these pieces of evidence, you can see why the Resurrection brings great "Assurance" to the life of a believer
  - i. So, the first thing we see concerning the Resurrection is the *Assurance* we have because of it

### III.2<sup>nd</sup> – "The Acceptance we find because of the Resurrection"

- a. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we are now able to be accepted and justified in the sight of God through faith in Christ
  - i. In *Romans 4:25*, the apostle Paul declares, "***Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification***"
  - ii. The Lord Jesus was "*raised from the dead*" in order that we might receive justification in the sight of God through faith in Him
  - iii. We can have complete confidence that God the Father accepted the redemptive work of His Son on the Cross because of the Resurrection
  - iv. The Resurrection was God's stamp of approval on Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross – "***Well done good and faithful servant!***"
- b. In 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, the apostle Paul tells us that if Jesus did not rise from the dead believers would still be in their sins, our faith would be pointless, and we would be of all men most pathetic
  - i. Without the Resurrection, there would be no salvation, no forgiveness, no justification, no acceptance, no sanctification, and no glorification
  - ii. A dead Savior can't save anybody...
- c. However, by God the Father raising up Jesus from the dead, God was declaring to the world that the work of His Son on the Cross was accepted by Him
  - i. And now, because of the Resurrection, we can have complete confidence that through faith in Jesus we will be accepted by God
  - ii. ***Romans 10:9-10*** declares, "***That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation***"
  - iii. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith in alone, in Christ alone, and God has confirmed this to us by raising Jesus Christ from the dead
  - iv. The road to heaven will always go through Jesus Christ...
- d. Therefore, the second thing we see concerning the Resurrection is the Acceptance we find because of it

- IV. **3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Anticipation we maintain because of the Resurrection”**
- a. Because the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, all believers eagerly anticipate the day when He will raise up our bodies from the dead
    - i. In **John 5:28-29**, the Lord Jesus declared, *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear My voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”*
    - ii. This is our hope, this is our desire, this is what we long for and anticipate as a believer
    - iii. One day we will be delivered from this old, corrupt, mortal, weak body and be given a new, incorruptible, immortal, glorious body
    - iv. The grave is not the end of the story, but there will be a resurrection...
  - b. And this is the living hope we have in Jesus Christ
    - i. **1 Peter 1:3** declares, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”*
    - ii. Every believer has been brought into a “living hope” because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ...
  - c. And this morning, I want to end by asking a simple question, “What is your hope? What do you hope for? What do you look forward to?”
    - i. Let me tell you what my hope is...
    - ii. My hope is that one day I will be delivered from this wretched body, that one day I will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye and be given a new, glorious body, that one day I will be reunited with my loved ones who have gone before me, and that one day I will see the Lord Jesus face to face and be in His presence forever
    - iii. This is my hope, and because of the Resurrection, it is a living hope that each passing day is getting closer to becoming reality
  - d. Therefore, the final thing we see concerning the Resurrection is the Anticipation we maintain because of it
- V. **This morning I am here to tell you that all the word’s found in the English language cannot describe the importance of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead**
- a. Truly He rose from the dead, and with that single act, He has brought hope into a hopeless world, and this morning, He wants to bring hope into your life – “Won’t you let Him?” I pray you will...