

Matthew 27:57-28:17 - The Resurrected Life

57 When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. Then Pilate ordered that it be released. 59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen, 60 and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb.

We are approaching the end of the gospel of Matthew, and we are in the midst of Jesus just being brought down from the cross.

Dominic took us through the crucifixion of Christ last week. The final cries of Jesus signaled a finality to sin and its eternal effects... **Redemption is finished. The penalty of sin is paid in full. The weight of sin has been lifted. Death is destroyed under the boot of Jesus' powerful sacrifice.**

The cross is such good news you guys. Our sins are dealt with. And there is a dying to ourselves that takes place when we go to the cross. The cross is the greatest news for followers of Jesus.

But they don't know that yet... The characters in this story, at this time, don't know what we know.

That's a really important detail... Joseph of Arimathea doesn't know that yet. The two Marys don't know that yet. The disciples don't know that...

To them, the cross is bad news.

Dead is dead... And to the disciples, Jesus is dead! There's no expectation of the resurrection for them. Especially if you have just experienced what the disciples have... Their whole world has been flipped. Their expectations for the future have been thwarted - their best friend, master, and king has just been brutally murdered.

Yes, there was just an earthquake, a thunderous mourning of the earth, followed by a 4 inch thick veil in the temple being dramatically split in half... But the disciples weren't really around for that. They all scattered and hid when Jesus was arrested. All but John fled.

So not only are they living in loss, but they are living in regret. Something I bet many of us can relate to.

So **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb.** They were standing beside the grave of Jesus as if he were never coming back.

I make a big deal about this because we need to wrap our heads around the fact that the resurrection is not as predictable of an ending as we might think... For us that are outside of the story, we can skip ahead. They can't. So they are in a state of despair, loss, and having no clue what the future holds.

That state they are in, that state of loss and hopelessness, is a picture of our hearts apart from Jesus. A heart without the resurrection of Christ is vulnerable to the tragedy of sin, death, and loss.

We actually see this in the disciples in John 20:19. It says that the disciples had locked themselves in a room because they were too afraid to face the world (namely the religious leaders that might go after them as well).

Which is sad but also funny considering what we see the religious leaders doing here:

62 The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come, steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "You have a guard of soldiers," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." 66 They went and secured the tomb by setting a seal on the stone and placing the guard.

The disciples are scared of the Pharisees and the Pharisees are scared of the disciples.

I want us to hone in on the pre-resurrection state of the disciples for a moment... They are cowardice. Running away in the face of danger, denying Jesus in front of little girls, and hiding in a room with the doors locked.

There is a very clear distinction between the disciples before the resurrection and the disciples after the resurrection of Christ.

Because afterwards, you see this boldness in every single one of them. Proclaiming the gospel unabashedly, being beaten, singing hymns in prisons, and preaching in front of thousands of people with tongue's of fire.

What does this mean? It means that the resurrection of Jesus is a big deal. Something occurs in us because of the resurrection.

It means that the resurrection of Christ has a serious supernatural effect on the hearts of those that follow and believe in him. It is not just for show. The resurrection changes us.

Paul the Apostle believed this so strongly that he said this in **1 Corinthians 15:17-19**, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone."

Our faith in Christ - our Christianity - hinges on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Without it, death has the final word, not Him.

[TRANSITION] - So to recap here, Friday comes and the disciples are sad on Friday, scared on Saturday, then... Sunday comes... Oh man oh man!

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men.

5 The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here. **For he has risen, just as he said.** Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.' Listen, I have told you."

8 So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his disciples the news. 9 Just then Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They came up, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

These are the words I want us to focus on... **"For he has risen, just as he said"**

This is true in the specific sense that Jesus told the disciples that he would be crucified and rise again in three days, but this is also indicative of a greater biblical narrative that has been told throughout human history.

The resurrection of Christ is woven as a tapestry throughout the entirety of scripture. Story after story of those that were once enslaved and dead in their ways, risen again through the redemption of God's chosen heroes.

All these heroes have this resurrection theme flowing through their lives... Noah is preserved in the arc and rises out of it once the floods are over. Jonah spends three days in the belly of a fish and is spit out to proclaim repentance to a far off nation. Daniel is shoved into the lion's

den for his faithfulness to God and comes out three days later unscathed. Moses spends years in the wilderness before leading Israel out of slavery into the promise land. And David spends years pursued by enemies hiding in a cave only to come out the other side to lead Israel into a period of thriving.

All of their stories ultimately ended with death... Jesus' story culminates in the resurrection never ends. All of these stories of deliverance all fall short and point towards our true North, Jesus.

Yet all of these narratives are but shadows of the gospel. Daniel may have come out of the lion's den but that fact doesn't bring your soul out of despair when your family is being torn apart by divorce. Jonah may have been delivered out of the belly of the fish but he doesn't deliver us out of our addictions. David may have slain Goliath but that doesn't change the battle against our own fears and insecurities you and I face every day.

Moses doesn't lead us out of our slavery to sin and death into new life... Jesus does! Jesus is the greater Moses. Jesus is the greater Daniel. Jesus is the greater Noah and David. I can't walk in David's triumphs. I can't share in that with him. **BUT I DO SHARE IN THE RESURRECTION AND TRIUMPH OF JESUS.**

***FOR KEYNOTE* Format the previous points as follows:** (it will be said fairly fast)

The resurrection of Christ is woven as a tapestry throughout the entirety of scripture.

- Noah is preserved in the arc and rises out of it once the floods are over.
- Jonah spends three days in the belly of a fish and is spit out to proclaim repentance to a far off nation.
- Daniel is shoved into the lion's den for his faithfulness to God and comes out three days later unscathed.
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- David spends years pursued by enemies hiding in a cave only to come out the other side to lead Israel into a period of thriving.

That is the difference between Jesus and all the other characters of the bible. Jesus brings us into his new life. Jesus is the resurrection from the dead. And his Spirit is in us. And now we have the resurrection flowing through us.

Romans 6:5-11 - For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified

with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The cross removes the sting of sin, but the resurrection removes the sting of death and offers the sweetness of life. The two together are the inheritance we have in Christ. Not only that our sins would be forgiven, but that we could step into a new life with God.

And we get to see that resurrected life played out in the disciples... Let's close up our passage and then I want to read another passage to you from John...

11 As they were on their way, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the priests had assembled with the elders and agreed on a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money 13 and told them, "Say this, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him while we were sleeping.' 14 If this reaches the governor's ears, we will deal with him and keep you out of trouble." 15 They took the money and did as they were instructed, and this story has been spread among Jewish people to this day.

16 The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted.

It says here that some of the disciples doubted... There is a parallel story where Jesus visits his disciples before they go to the mountain in Galilee for Jesus to depart.

John 20:19-21 - 19 When it was evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Now, at first glance this is kinda weird. Jesus pops into their doors THAT WERE LOCKED and breathes on them...

But this brief, seemingly awkward moment has cosmic meaning. Read this with me...

Genesis 2:7-8 - Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and **breathed the breath of life into his nostrils**, and the man became a living being...The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.

Jesus, when he breathes on his disciples, mirrors the life-giving breath of new life into man. Just as He breathed new life into Adam for the very first time, Jesus breathes new life into the disciples.

When Christ died, he took on the penalty of our sin, but more than that, he wore our unrighteousness in exchange for his righteousness. Because of this amazing work Jesus did, we can receive the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that rose Christ from the dead now lives in you.

The point here is that believing in the resurrection of Christ is so much more than admitting that it happened so we can check the Christian box.

The resurrection of Christ breathes new life in us. **Galatians 2:20** says "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

The cross does away with the sting of sin, baggage, and failure. The resurrection brings life with the Spirit of Christ.

The resurrection means:

1. WE ARE NEW CREATIONS

1 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Jesus said that you cannot see the Kingdom of God unless you are born again... This is the beautiful thing that has happened as a result of the cross and resurrection: that there was an exchanging of our sin for Christ's righteousness, and because of that righteousness, we get the Spirit of God.

We live as completely new people. Let this be an encouragement to us who feel like we get caught in this continual loop of sin. That is not who you are! The old you was crucified on the cross. **You now have resurrection flowing through you.**

Many of us believe that becoming a Christian means that it is a change in subculture, hobbies, and habits. That you hang out with different people and do more Christian things.

You are a literally new person. You'll have different affections. You'll have different things that give you joy. But that comes as a result of being new!

2. WE HAVE NEW PURPOSE

This will be covered in the great commission next week... But as we draw to a close, take heart in the fact that we now get to live our lives as an extension of Christ's life. That's so sweet! We are not sacks of matter floating through life randomly and with no absolute direction. We have a purpose!

That is a reality that people spend decades searching for yet never find. You have a purpose. To know God intimately, to love him deeply, and to find new and exciting ways to reconcile everything around you to his Kingdom.

3. WE HAVE NEW POWER

When John the Baptist was baptizing people began to believe that he was the messiah... John had a following of thousands of people. He could have easily taken whatever following he had accumulated and created a little revolution of his own. But when asked about his ministry, John said this:

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Ultimately, the ministry of people only reaches as far as the power of people... But the ministry of God reaches as far as eternity.

John knew this in his bones... That as wonderful as his efforts were they paled in comparison to the might of Christ's resurrection power.

Pre-resurrection disciples followed Jesus but had no power. No might of their own, and no amount of bravery to face the trials of the world and come out affective... Yet the post-resurrection disciples had the Holy Spirit.

Church, if we be believers then we have access to the power of Christ's Spirit given to us through his righteousness... The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you.

You have the resurrection flowing through you. This is something to rejoice in, cherish, and be emboldened by.

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WORSHIP
CARPETS
PRAYER TEAM**