

He Has Risen!

Luke 24:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

What a wonderful day this is, as all over the world people are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, **ALIVE forevermore!**

As we sing many times in closing: "He has risen from the grave and He is LORD!"

But we remember Christ's death on the cross every Sunday, don't we, as we gather together with fellow Christians around the Lord's Table? Every time we take the bread and drink the cup, we not only proclaim that we believe that Jesus died for us, but also that He is coming again.

So, **we serve a risen Savior**, and we look forward to that day when we shall stand with Him in a glorious heavenly home which He has prepared for all who have loved and served Him.

I put together some lines that explain the Easter message that we are talking about today.

For God so loved **E**VERYONE that He gave His son
to die on the cross and **A**RISE on the third day
as the ultimate sacrifice to **S**AVE us from our sin.
All that He asks is that we **T**RUST and obey
to receive the promise of **E**TERNITY in Heaven
and by His grace be found **R**IGHTEOUS on Judgment Day.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Luke 24:1-10 (NASB)

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”⁸ And they remembered His words,⁹ and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰ Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

Prayer

BODY:

I. What is the Gospel Message?

The ability to understand the gospel message, depends on the understanding two things:

1. There is a God who is our Creator and loves us.
2. We are sinners who need to be restored back to God.

We can't go into great detail here, but, there are many ways that we can **KNOW** that there is a God. The scriptures tell us that everyone has been shown that there is a God and if we choose not to believe, we are without excuse on judgment day,

Romans 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Do you truly believe in your heart that there is a God? This is the first step. I would be glad to talk with any of you who are struggling with that belief.

When you read God's word and see all of the prophecies that have been fulfilled and the consistency of message, it becomes clear that it had to be inspired of God. It is through God's word that we learn mankind has fallen away from God and we have all sinned and need Christ to restore us back with God.

Once we realize that we are sinners to an eternal God, the message that Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose the third day from the grave will impact your life. You will realize for the first time the REAL PURPOSE OF LIFE while you are on this earth.

That purpose is to get right with God so you can spend eternity with Him.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

The ability to make intelligent and correct decisions is one of the great secrets of successful Christian living.

ILLUSTRATION:

Even if you aren't a sports fan I think you'll appreciate this story about a college football team whose starting quarterback had just been injured. Their #2 quarterback was sick, and hadn't even dressed out for the game. All the coach had left was a 3rd-string freshman who had been a quarterback in high school, but who was just being used on the college team as a punter.

To make matters worse, they were backed up on their own 3-yard line. It was a desperate situation, and the coach's only thought was somehow to get a little farther from their goal line to give them room to punt out of danger.

Sending in the 3rd-string quarterback, the coach said, "Son, I want you to hand off to the big fullback Smith for the next two plays, let him run right into the middle of the line and get us a few yards of breathing room. Then I want you to punt."

The young quarterback did as he was instructed. On the first play he handed off to Smith, but almost miraculously Smith found a hole off tackle and ran for 50 yards. The young quarterback called the same play again, and once more, miracle of miracles, the hole opened again and Smith gained another 45 yards. The fans went crazy. In two plays they had gone 95 yards, and the ball was on their opponent's 2-yard line. It was first down and goal to go!

Confidently the team lined up once again. The young quarterback received the snap, stepped back and to everyone's amazement, punted the ball into the end zone. As his stunned teammates came off the field, the coach angrily grabbed the young quarterback and demanded, "What in the world were you thinking about when you called that last play?" The quarterback answered, "**I was thinking what a dumb coach we have.**"

Now that story sounds ridiculous, but the truth of the matter is that many college and professional coaches today do not expect their quarterbacks to make decisions. They send all the plays in from the bench.

Now obviously we are not here this morning to talk football. But there is an important point we need to see here about our relationship with God. God has paid us the ultimate compliment. He allows us to make our own decisions. He allows us to call our own plays.

When He created us in His own image, this was primary among the characteristics with which He endowed us - the ability to understand, to reason, and to choose.

With this in mind, please turn with me to [Luke 18:31-33](#) and listen as I read.

Luke 18:31-33 (NASB)

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, ³³ and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

Stop for a moment and think about what we have just read. Then answer this question, "Did you understand what was read?" Did you understand those words?

I expect you to answer, "Yes, I understood them." After all, they are pretty simple words. We do understand words like "**mock, insult, spit, flog, kill,**" & "**rise again.**" We understand very well what Jesus was saying.

The apostle Paul said,

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NASB)

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Paul says "**we preach Christ crucified.**" Paul tells us that the **old rugged cross** is the very heart of the message about Jesus.

That is why Jesus took His apostles aside and said, "I have something important to tell you. We're going to Jerusalem, and when we get there they are going to turn me over to the Gentiles, who will mock me, insult me, spit on me, flog me, and **kill me**. And then on the third day **I will rise again.**"

Now what could be clearer than that?

Luke 18:34 (NASB)

³⁴ But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.*

II. Why Didn't They Understand?

In amazement, we wonder, "What's the matter with them? Were they hard of hearing? Why didn't they get the message? Why didn't they understand?"

I think there are several answers to that question. The main answer, though, is found in...

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

The reason that they did not understand, is that God had chosen not to reveal it yet. Did you hear that? If the rulers had understood who Jesus was, they would not have crucified Him. This would have included Pilate, Caiaphas (who was the High Priest), members of the Sanhedrin, and the Roman soldiers.

When Paul refers to the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross, he calls it a "mystery." And the word "mystery" that he uses is a Greek word for a military strategy that is kept secret from the enemy.

Often times military strategy depended so much upon secrecy, that even those in positions of command weren't told the secret strategy until the last possible minute, because if the enemy found out, then the plan would fail.

If Satan had found out what was happening, the plan wouldn't have worked. So God kept it secret.

On Calvary's hill, while they were driving nails into the hands of Jesus; while Jesus is writhing in pain; while His blood is dripping to the ground and He is dying; Satan is no doubt thinking, "I've won. I've beaten God. Evil is triumphant. Righteousness has been defeated." But Satan didn't know the plan of God.

It wasn't until 3 days later, when Jesus rose from the tomb, that Satan realized that he had made a mistake. That he had played into the plan of God. I did exactly what God expected him to do. He crucified the Lord of Glory, and now sinners can be redeemed and saved from their sins.

Jesus told the apostles ahead of time, but it went right over their heads. It wasn't what they expected the Messiah to be. They thought Jesus would become a military leader that would free them from the Romans and restore Israel. They simply didn't understand.

III. Do We Understand?

Now, what about us today? Do we understand?

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Do you remember the two on the road to Emmaus who unknowingly talked with Christ after His resurrection?

Luke 24:27 (NASB)

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

How I would love to have a recording of that conversation!

When they finally opened their eyes and realized they had been talking with Jesus and that He really was alive and had conquered death, it says that they remembered that "**their hearts burned within them**" as they were listening to Jesus.

That is what happened to His disciples. After the resurrection, their eyes were opened. Now all the pieces of the puzzle started to fit together, and these words of Jesus made sense to them. For the first time, they began to understand this teaching that had just gone over their heads before.

It's the same way with us, isn't it? It seems like this "**cross**" business and this "**dying**" business and this "**shed blood**" business is foolishness. It's gory. We don't even want to hear about it.

But then the Holy Spirit locks into our hearts and we begin to realize that this is a personal message, and we confess Jesus as our Savior and become His disciples. Then what used to be foolishness is now spiritual wisdom. What used to be weakness is now power and strength. Suddenly, it all makes sense.

Listen to this next passage very carefully.

1 Corinthians 2:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Here is power to change the way we think, to change the way we act, to change our lives. Here is power to overcome our sins, to give us victory over death. Here is power greater than anything that the world has ever seen. It now gives us a clear reason to live. The purpose of life!

God beat Satan and Jesus conquered him on Calvary. The strategy came off without a hitch. The victory has been won. Understand that. Never let that go!

Through the wisdom of God we can understand. There is only one sacrifice. There is only one way to forgiveness. There is only one plan of salvation and it is all made possible through Jesus. Jesus Christ died for you and me.

That is all that matters. When He becomes your Savior, then you have all of these promises for yourself. For your faith, your repentance, your willingness to obey in Christian baptism you are promised the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of God's Holy Spirit to empower you to live a Christian life.

CONCLUSION:

So we offer His invitation, realizing that there may be someone here who has never ever accepted Christ as their Savior. We plead with you. We appeal to you not to let this moment escape not to let this window of opportunity pass you by.

If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior, then come now, name His name, be faithful to Him in Christian baptism, arise to walk in the newness of life. God's invitation is offered to you. Will you come as we stand and as we sing?

He Lives. (Page 220)

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's always near.
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.