

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

(How the Resurrection of Jesus Produces a Shout and a Song)
I Peter 1:3



He Is Risen Indeed!

- ◆ He is Alive and Well!
- ◆ He is Coming Again!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I Peter 1:3)

Bill Kirk

WHY THE RESURRECTION?

Text: Matthew 27:39-54

Subject: "A Shout and a Song from the Empty Tomb"

Introduction

- ◆ When Jesus was crucified, He said seven things.
 - ◆ They are known as the Seven Words from the Cross.
1. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
 2. "I declare to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
 3. "Woman, behold your son (to the disciple) behold your mother." (John 19:27)
 4. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34)
 5. "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)
 6. "It is finished." (John 19:30)
 7. "Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." (Luke 23:46)

When Jesus was crucified, He said seven things and God the Father did four things according to our text in Mathew 27.

- ◆ Four miraculous signs, phenomenon and divine acts

Question: What four things did the Father do (and why did He do them?)

1. Matthew 27:45 **"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour."**

Question: Why was there intense and unforgettable darkness?

- ◆ From 9 a.m. until noon Calvary was a busy place.
- ◆ Soldiers performing, by-passers blaspheming, priests, scribes and elders scoffing, robbers reviling and one repenting.
- ◆ Jesus uttered His first three words between 9 a.m. and noon.
- ◆ Then suddenly, the land becomes dark when you least expect it. (At noon)

Question: Why the darkness at noon (for three hours)?

Answer: Because darkness in Scripture is a symbol of judgment. (Isaiah 5:30; Joel 2:30; Amos 5:18 & 20; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Acts 2:20; II Peter 2:17; Revelation 6:12-17)

- ◆ Darkness meant the judgment of God upon our sins.
- ◆ Darkness meant the wrath of God against Jesus carrying our sin.
- ◆ Darkness meant hell came to Calvary that day, as Jesus bore its horrors.
- ◆ Darkness is symbolic of the darkest day in human history when God's Son died for your sin and mine.

2. Matthew 27:51, **"And behold, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom."**

Question: Why was the curtain rent in two from top to bottom?

- ◆ In the temple, the Holy of Holies was the presence chamber of God.

- ◆ Only once a year (on the Day of Atonement) could only one man (the high priest) enter this chamber of God.
- ◆ The room outside the Holy of Holies was called the Holy Place.
- ◆ Between these two rooms hung a thick curtain separating all humanity from the presence of God.

Question: Why was the curtain supernaturally torn when Jesus died?

Answer: To tell us that God has accepted the substitutionary sacrifice.

- ◆ To reveal to us that we all needed a Savior and can only be saved through the righteous sacrifice of God's Son (and)
- ◆ To show us that God is now inviting everyone to approach Him through the work of our Great High Priest – Jesus.

3. Matthew 27:51b **“And the earth did quake and rocks were split.”**

Question: Why the earthquake?

- ◆ The earth shook because the weight of our sin was placed back on the earth's creator.
- ◆ The earthquake was a thundering from heaven to pronounce the fatal blow to satan's kingdom.
- ◆ The earthquake was to strike awe and reverence in us all that God will have the last say. (God is saying **“At attention”**.)

4. Matthew 27:52 & 53, **“And the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose; and came out of the graves after Jesus resurrection, and went into the city and appeared unto many.”**

Question: Why the opened graves, resurrected saints and appearing to many in Jerusalem?

(Notice Matthew 27:53)

“Many bodies came out of the graves **after His resurrection.**” (This is Jesus)

Question: Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

- ◆ Jesus was seen at least 13 times after He was risen from the dead.

1. Mary Magdalene	8. Paul near Damascus
2. The women returning from the tomb	9. Stephen near Jerusalem
3. Peter	10. Paul in the temple
4. The disciples on the Emmaus road	11. 500 believers in Galilee
5. The apostles	12. A multitude at His ascension
6. Seven by the lake of Tiberius	12. John on the Isle of Patmos
7. James at Bethany	
- ◆ Jesus testified Himself that He had died and risen again in Rev1:18.

“I am He that lives and was dead; behold I am alive for evermore.”

- ◆ The resurrection proves that Jesus is Jesus!
- ◆ It proves that Jesus is the Savior!

- ◆ It proves that Jesus is who He said He was!
- ◆ It proves that our faith is not in vain!
- ◆ It proves that we have everything to live for!

Question: Is it that important we remember the resurrection of Jesus?

Answer: Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:8;

“Remember that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.”

Question: Why does God want us to always remember that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Answer: Because of what Jesus’ resurrection means to us this hour:

(Only two reasons)

1. The resurrection here is **symbolic**, of the victory of Christ over death.
2. The resurrection here is **prophetic**, of all believers who will rise again.

(This “appearing to many” by those resurrected means)

- ◆ Not only will we be resurrected at Christ’s coming,
- ◆ But we will know each other in our glorified bodies (when we appear to each other).

1. **Darkness from noon till 3 means:**

- ◆ Our sin was judged at Calvary.

2. **The torn veil means:**

- ◆ We are invited to approach God through Jesus.

3. **The earthquake means:**

- ◆ Satan’s kingdom has been dealt a fatal blow.

4. **Resurrected saints mean:**

- ◆ Death has been conquered and Jesus is alive!

(What does Jesus’ resurrection mean to you this hour?)

I. It Means That Your Sins Can Be Forgiven:

(Romans 4:25) “Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.”

(It’s a two-fold promise)

1. **“Christ was delivered for our offenses”** (Which means)

- ◆ His death was payment for sin.
- ◆ His death made it possible for God to forgive us.
- ◆ His death had atoning power to cover sin.

2. **“And was raised again for our justification”** (Means)

- ◆ Easter is the seal that Jesus did the job.
- ◆ Easter is God’s endorsement that His justice has been fulfilled.

- ◆ Easter is heaven's approval that the Father has accepted His Son's payment for sin.
- ◆ Easter is the divine assurance that your justification has been secured!

(I Peter 2:24 records)

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree."

(But how do we know God's holy demand was satisfied?)

- ◆ Easter declared that Jesus lives!
- ◆ And His life is the guarantee of our justification. (Why?)
- ◆ Because if our substitute had not fully paid the debt for sin, Jesus would still be under the power of death!

(Can we be sure? Romans 8:33)

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies. Who is He that condemns? It is Christ that died, rather, **that is risen again.**"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Easter proves that God was pleased with what Jesus did, (and)
- ◆ Easter proves that you can live free from all guilt and condemnation and enjoy the power of favor with God.

(#1 – Easter settles the sin question)

II. The Resurrection of Jesus Means We have A Shout and a Song

(I Peter 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

- ◆ It's an outburst of joy from Peter's lips!
- ◆ It's an outburst of power and praise from his heart!
- ◆ It's a characteristic of all true believers!

(What's the big deal about this?)

- ◆ Peter is writing to believers who are suffering great persecution.
- ◆ In 1:6, the believers were "in heaviness from manifold temptations."
- ◆ In 1:7, there was "a great trial of faith."
- ◆ In 1:8, though Peter declares we rejoice anyway with "Joy unspeakable and full of glory."

(Remember now, this is Peter)

- ◆ After the crucifixion, Peter was down cast, despondent and despairing.
- ◆ So much so, was Peter hurting that he turned to the other disciples and said, "I'm going fishing". (Or, I need to just get away for a while)

**(But in Peter 1:3, Peter shouts out)
"Blessed be the name of the Lord!"**

Question: Why is Peter so joyful?

Answer: Because of Easter Sunday, and the resurrection that begat in us all a
"Lively Hope"!

Question: What is a **"Lively Hope"**?

Answer: It's the promised guarantee of Verse 4:

(Peter lists your guaranteed inheritance)

(V.4) "To an inheritance **incorruptible** and **undefiled** and that doesn't **fade away**, reserved in **heaven** for you".

Question: How does God describe our sure inheritance?

1. It is **"incorruptible"** (APHTHARTON) which means:
 - ◆ It cannot perish, age, deteriorate or die.
2. It is **"undefiled"** (AMIANANTON) which means:
 - ◆ It will not be polluted, defiled, soiled or infected (no defects, disease or damage).
3. It **"doesn't fade away"** (AMARANTON) which means:
 - ◆ Its beauty will last forever; never fade, diminish or wear away.
4. It is **"reserved"** which means:
 - ◆ It is being held by God for those who receive His mercy, are born again and believe in their future resurrection.
 - Jesus' resurrection takes care of the sin, but
 - Jesus' resurrection takes care of our song, because we have a **"Lively Hope"** for the future (far beyond the grave).
 - It means that one day the believer will be in heaven with a brand new body.
 - It means you'll not be some vague spirit floating back and forth.
 - It means a fourfold body change. (I Corinthians 15:42-52)

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." (V. 51)

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (V. 52)

(It's a four-fold body change) (V. 42-44)

1. Sown in corruption. **(Raised in incorruption)**
2. Sown in dishonor. **(Raised in glory)**

3. Sown in weakness. **(Raised in power)**
4. Sown in a natural body. **(Raised in a spiritual body)**

(What's it all mean?) It means:

1. We're put in the ground, but will come out of the ground.
2. We're buried out of sight, but will one day be seen again.
3. We're embalmed and subject to decay, but will be raised with a glorified body.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Gold's Gym, your exercise bike, your treadmill, jogging, step master, thigh master, Stairmaster, aerobics, sit ups, ab-flex, vitamins and all the health food available.
- ◆ Even Slim Fast, Nutra System, Weight Watchers and Jenny Craig,
- ◆ Will not prevent us all from death, dying and decay. But that's okay. Why?

(Verse 54, the last six words **"Death is swallowed up in victory"**).

(The words "swallowed up" mean)

"To absorb, To drown out, To destroy, To remove, To abolish"

Fact: The power of death will be destroyed and brought to an end. (How?)
(V. 57) "Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- ◆ No more sting, graves, Aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin, Tylenol
- ◆ No more doctors, prescriptions, hospitals, ambulances, funeral homes, coroners, death certificates or caskets,
- ◆ No more goodbyes, tears, flowers or cemetery lots to pick out.
- ◆ No more death, sorrow, loneliness or widows.

(Why not?)

"Death is swallowed up in victory." Promise for the saved!

(God says in)

(I Thessalonians 4:17) "So shall we ever be with the Lord."

(II Corinthians 4:14) "Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also."

(John 14:19) "Because I live, ye shall live also."

(II Corinthians 5:8) "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

(Remember – the predominant emotion at Easter is that of joy)

- ◆ Matthew 28:8, "Mary left the tomb with **great joy**."
- ◆ Luke 24:40, "The disciples on Easter evening had **great joy**."
- ◆ John 20:20, "The disciples **were glad** when they saw the risen Lord."

Our song has been birthed by a Lively Hope!

III. Jesus' Resurrection Takes Care of Our Sadness

(Romans 8:34) "Christ is risen again, and is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

Question: How does the resurrection of Jesus take care of our sadness?

- ◆ Jesus lived life on earth like you and me.
- ◆ Jesus knew sorrow and heartache like you and me.
- ◆ Jesus felt pain and infirmity like you and me.

(What's the big deal?)

- ◆ The big deal is, when we stand by the empty tomb and realize that Jesus has power over death.
- ◆ Then we believe that He is in control of every issue smaller than death.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If Jesus can deal with death victoriously (which is the greater issue)
- ◆ Then Jesus can intercede for every other issue in your life.
 1. He can turn your crosses into your advantage.
 2. He can turn your pain into His gain.
 3. He can turn your scars into stars.
 4. He can give grace greater than every trial, pain, loss and disappointment.
(Why?)

- ◆ Because He ever lives to be your faithful High Priest, and He is touched with the feeling of your infirmities.
- ◆ If you're broken hearted, He doesn't chide you, He invites you to come boldly to Him and find grace and help in time of need.
- ◆ If you're battling temptation, the Lord promises to sustain you in Romans 8:11, **"The Spirit that raised Christ up from the dead shall quicken your mortal body."** (Why?)

(Verse 12, "To mortify the deeds of the flesh nature.")

Conclusion

Fact: There is only one bad thing about the resurrection. **(What is it?)**

Fact: Not everyone will enjoy it!

(Acts 25:15) "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

(Daniel 12:2) "Those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life and some to everlasting damnation."

(John 5:28, 29) "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth; some to the resurrection of life, and some to the resurrection of damnation."

Question: Which group will you be in?

Question: Which direction will you be going in?

Question: Which road to eternity **are you on today?**

(In Mark 16:4 the Bible says)

"The stone was rolled away."

Question: What stone was rolled away?

Answer: The stone that sealed the door of the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Question: Why was the stone rolled away?

Answer: Most people say, "So that Jesus could come out."

(But that is not true at all)

John said in John 20:19 "Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus' resurrected body was independent of doors and indifferent to walls.
- ◆ Jesus' resurrected body was not inhibited by material doors, walls or stones. He walked through them after His resurrection.

Question: Then, why was the stone rolled away?

Answer: Not so Jesus could come out, but so that inquirers could go in.

(The "stone rolled away" was speaking to us)

- ◆ It tells about our entrance into salvation.
- ◆ It tells us about the only way to Jesus.
- ◆ It speaks of an open door to eternal life.
- ◆ It invites us to come now and see.
- ◆ It reveals that Jesus indeed is risen.

(The stone rolled away is inviting us)

- ◆ It is not to let Jesus out, but to let you in.
- ◆ It says, "Today is the day of salvation."

AMEN
Bill Kirk