

Great Stories of the Bible - 06/19/22

The Resurrection

TEXT- Mark 16:1-8 *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices*

INTRO –With so many different religions teaching that their way is the right way, what makes Christianity any different? The answer is the resurrection. Jesus took our sins, died on a cross, and came back to life.

People make pilgrimages to the grave sites of other religious leaders.

Christians visit an empty tomb.

If we aren't in awe of the resurrection of Jesus as a historical event, we may only see it as a fairytale. The resurrection is scientifically impossible, but historically true. The resurrection is history-making, earth-shaking, life-transforming, and eternity-changing truth. You may believe it, but do you understand how it changes your life? You may comprehend the theology behind it, but has it yet changed your behavior?

Without the incarnation the resurrection is impossible – Without the resurrection the incarnation is incomplete.

Three brief statements tell the story of salvation:

Crucify Him - It is finished - He is risen

1 Corinthians 15:12-23 *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

- **If Christ never rose from the dead our preaching is worthless.**
- **If Christ never rose from the dead our faith is in vain.**
- **If Christ never rose from the dead the apostles are liars.**
- **If Christ never rose from the dead our sins are not forgiven.**

If Christ never rose from the dead we have said goodbye to our Christian loved ones, never to see them again.

3 Reasons The Resurrection Sets Christianity Apart

1. Jesus' resurrection cancels out our sins.

We were dead in our sins, but Jesus died to pay for our sins **Rom. 3:25**. His resurrection defeated sin's hold on us and enabled us to have our sins forgiven. No other religion in the world teaches our need for God to save us from sin. Christianity teaches that we can experience forgiveness for all of our sins because He canceled the record of our sins took it away by nailing it to the cross and rose again to set us free **Col 2:13-14**

2. Jesus' resurrection connects us to God.

In other religions, God is represented as impersonal, distant and unapproachable. Christianity teaches that God is loving, inviting and accessible. Jesus' resurrection bridged the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness creating a way for us to connect with God. The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, a veil in the temple that separated God from man was rent. In Christianity, we can talk, worship and pray with God, but other religions teach that there is no direct communication with God. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have direct access to God and a right relationship with Him.

3. Jesus' resurrection confirms He is alive.

Jesus' resurrection proves that He is who He says He is and that He is alive. Everything Jesus ever claimed would have been a lie had it not been for the resurrection. Many prophets and teachers came before Him claiming many of the same things, but only Jesus had the power to defeat death by rising from the dead three days after being crucified.

Christianity is the only religion in the world where God has an empty tomb ([Matthew 28:6](#)).

Colossians 2:12 *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

The songwriter echoed the words of those who were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Saviour, "I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today, I know that He is living whatever men may say... He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart."

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

Romans 1:4 *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

Acts 4:33 *And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

CONCL- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

The reality is the Christ did rise from the dead. We have not swallowed some dummy drug and felt better while still actually being sick. We truly are healed from the deadness of sin. Christ truly is our Savior.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Paul tells us: *Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which you are saved”*

There are the three things that are of great importance the Gospel for our salvation:

1. The Gospel preached to you
2. The Gospel you accepted
3. The Gospel on which you stand committed