

Alive In Christ!

- *Luke 24:1-6*

- **Today we celebrate our Risen Savior. We have sung about the triumph over death, hell & the grave this morning. We have been reminded that through His death, our sins were forgiven, and through His resurrection, we have eternal life & hope for today.**
- **The coming Messiah was announced by an angel to Mary. It was the angels that announced His glorious birth. And how fitting that here in Luke 24, the angels are fulfilling their purpose once again as they announce a very important message to these women who have come to the tomb.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **Many a man has triumphed over things in their life.**
 - Great warriors who come from battle victorious.
 - An athlete who trains & prepares enters a race to finish the victor.
 - But these triumphs were nothing compared to the triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ as He conquered death & the grave.
- **But just a few days before this, He seemed anything but a conqueror.**
 - He was interrupted in a place of prayer there in the Garden as the soldiers came in to arrest Him & took Him off to be tried by evil men.
 - There He was cursed, He was beaten & He was spat upon.
 - They pressed a crown of thorns down upon His brow & mocked Him.
- **The next morning, they led Him to a hill outside the city wall. The streets were lined with people, who mocked our Lord.**
 - In a short time, they would lead Him to a Roman cross where they would nail him & there He would hang through the long hours bleeding & suffering anguish for you & for me.
 - As He hung on that cross, He didn't look at all like a conqueror.
 - Some friends came & took the body of Jesus to a borrowed tomb. 33 ½ years of commitment to these people and now His body rests inside a tomb ... but even the grave could not hold the Lord of life.
- **On Sunday morning, while the angels looked down on the scene, He broke the bonds of death & the grave & came forth to triumph over death & the grave.**
- **He lives today, & this morning I want to share with you just a couple points of why His resurrection is so important & why we celebrate it today.**

I. His Resurrection Is The Basis Of Our Faith (I Corinthians 15:13-14, 17-20)

a. The Empty Tomb Is Our Path To Heaven.

- i. As the people were gathered that day, they saw Jesus being placed in the tomb & they thought that this was the end.
- ii. Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to setup His Kingdom, but now they were placing His lifeless body in a tomb. And in defeat, they went away.
- iii. But the tomb was not a hindrance to the work of Christ, it was instead a stepping stone in fulfilling the work that His Father had given to Him to accomplish.
- iv. The tomb, a symbol of defeat by so many, became a symbol of triumph as Jesus arose victorious over death and the grave.

b. His Victory Became Our Hope

- i. When we think about death or those closest to us experience death, it brings about sorrow & a degree of disappointment to our lives.
- ii. But when Jesus rose from the grave, from that moment forward, the sting of death was forever taken away.
 1. We may grieve for those that have died.
 2. We may mourn their physical absence on this earth.

3. But for the Christian, the sting of death is gone, b/c we don't look just to the grave, we look beyond the grave.
 - a. I John 3:2 – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”
- iii. Because of His resurrection, the grave does not mark the place of ending. It is just the path that leads us to Heaven where we will forever be with our Risen Lord.

II. His Resurrection Gives Us Assurance Of Ours

- o **Can I tell you something this morning? Is it alright if I make a brief announcement right here?**
- a. **He Lives Today!**
 - i. We have some folks today who claimed that Jesus didn't really die, He just passed out & woke back up in the cool tomb.
 - ii. We have others who say that His resurrection was only spiritual, not physical.
 - iii. But according to the Word of God, He did die, He was buried, and on the third day, Thank God, He rose again, just as the scriptures record.
 1. I 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; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 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. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”
 - a. The Bible says He died & folks, I believe Jesus died on the cross.
 - b. The Bible says He was buried in a borrowed tomb. What's the significance of the borrowed tomb? Jesus wasn't going to need it very long, only about three days.
 - c. Because the Bible says that He arose from the grave on that third day.
 - iv. Not only do we have proof that He died, but we have even greater proof that He is alive today.
 - v. As if these witnesses' were not enough, I know He lives today b/c He lives within my heart, AMEN!
- b. **Because He Lives, So Shall We**
 - i. The resurrection of Christ gives us assurance today that b/c He lives, so shall we.
 - ii. When Lazarus had died, Mary & Martha were grieving their loss as they exclaimed to Jesus, “If you had just been here.”
 - iii. Their hearts were broken b/c they saw death as final. They knew he would rise again one day, but they had forgotten that Christ held the key to both death & life. It is for this reason Jesus replied in ...
 1. 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. Believest thou this?”
 - iv. What a profound question for Jesus to ask Martha, “Do you believe in me?”
 - v. You know, Jesus continues to ask that same question today, “Do you believe in me?”
 1. Not, “Do you believe in your works?”
 2. Not, “Do you believe you are a good person?”
 3. He asks, “Do you believe in me?”
 - vi. You see folks, that one decision that each of us must make, will change our lives here on this earth, but also for eternity.

1. Jesus was arrested so that we could be set free.
2. He was beaten & bruised so that we could be pardoned.
3. Jesus died so that we might live.
4. And He arose victorious so that we too might have victory through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

- **Listen carefully as we close today. This will be the most important question that you will ever be asked. It's the same question that Jesus asked Martha ... Do you believe in Him?**
 - Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins?
 - Do you realize that without Him today, you have no hope of Heaven, no hope of forgiveness & you will face eternity in hell when you take your last breath?
 - Did you know that understanding these things & calling upon Him as Lord of your life, you can know what salvation is today?

- **God allowed His Son to die in agony, and the Bible says in Romans 8:32 that God spared not His own Son.**
 - Did you get that? Listen to me today. God spared not His own Son.
 - Now when the sin of the world was upon the Lord Jesus Christ, God did not spare Jesus.
 - If, when Jesus Christ was bearing my sin, God did not spare Him, what makes you think that God will spare you if you reject Jesus?
 - Not only that, this is God's love at its greatest.
 - Adrian Rogers said, "If there were ever a promise that God would have reneged on, if there were ever a promise that God would say, "I've changed My mind," it would be this one, to let Jesus die. And if God kept that promise, friend, you can bank on it, He'll keep every other promise. God spared not His own Son."

- **We have come this morning to worship Him as King of Kings & Lord of Lords. But listen, one day soon, EVERY knee will bow.**
 - Philippians 2:9-11 – "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."