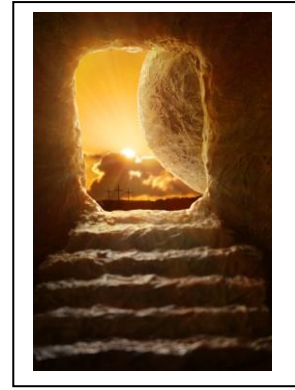


**Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**The Resurrection changes everything.**

**Scripture: Luke 24: 13-24**

Think about the most famous person who died recently. Someone whose death made every newspaper, TV, and radio station.



Okay, now imagine you are watching the news when the screen flashes up in bright red: **breaking news!** And you are informed that the famous person has come back to life! The entire nation, even the entire world is in shock.

Maybe you change the channel thinking it must be a hoax. But no, on every station and on radio they all state the same thing – the person has come back to life.

Everywhere you go in the following days, everyone is talking about it, or posting and blogging about it. This is monumental. This is impossible. This has never happened before! **OR HAS IT?**

You may still be sceptical – maybe you don't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead – maybe you think it was just an illusion, or just a fictional story.

The resurrection is history-making, earth-shaking, life-transforming and eternity-changing truth. You may comprehend the theology behind it, but has it changed your behaviour and your life?

We heard from Scripture the loss of hope the two disciples felt, their disbelief and confusion when they said – we thought He was the one.

**I would like to share 5 ways that Jesus' Resurrection changes everything.**

**1. We know who Jesus is and we are forgiven.**

**Romans 1:4** tells us that Jesus' unique identify as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when He was raised from the dead, setting Him apart as the Messiah, our Master.”

There is nothing like the power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead that proves to a lost world that He is indeed who He says He is. He is Lord. He is Saviour. He is King. He is victorious. He is risen!

In the past and even today there have been false prophets, either claiming to be God or leading people astray. But can you identify anyone else who has given their lives for a lost world and then was raised again? Jesus Christ is the only one who holds the power over sin and death, who offers us a fresh beginning and new life.

**Romans 6** also tells us that Jesus died to sin once for all, but He know to God. In the same way, as believers, we must count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus conquered sin and death, rose again, demonstrating His power over darkness. This occurred because of His never-ending love for us sinners. His love and sacrifice were the keys that unlocked all the chains we have wrapped around us. All those things that hold us back, the pain, hopelessness and pressures could be released. He opened the way for us to walk in the forgiveness that He graciously offers. He paid our debt.

## **2. We are saved through Christ.**

We are told in **Romans 10** that if we confess that Jesus is our Lord, believe that God raised Him from the dead and believe this to be true in our heart, we will be saved.

Jesus chose to die on our behalf. He took our place so that we could be saved. He was without sin and the only one who could make the way for a great rescue of mankind. He didn't say dead. He's not still in the tomb. Death could not hold Him back. His nail-scarred hands that reached out to rescue a lost world is still reaching out today. It is not about knowing facts in your head but believing the truth in your heart.

## **3. We can now live free and hopeful.**

Jesus said in **John 11** that there is no waiting, He is the resurrection and the Life and if we believe in Him, even though we will all die, we will live eternally with Him.

Jesus is the only one who holds the power to give us new life, to redeem our past and restore our brokenness, to give us strength, peace, and a hope for the future.

This doesn't mean that we are free from facing battles and struggles in life, but we have Jesus who provides all that we need. He is our Rescuer, our Saviour, the Word, the Way-maker, the chain-breaker, the Truth, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Resurrection, the Living Hope and the Life.

Many people have tried to put their hope in other temporary things or even in other people we respect. But people leave us or let us down at times, money is here today and gone tomorrow,

material possession fade away. The only true promise of lasting hope in this life is in Jesus.

You may be experiencing a difficult season now and found your hope has run dry. All you need to do is ask Jesus for His help and refreshment in your life. His hope never runs in short supply, and He promises to provide all that we need to live strong and free.

#### **4. We have Christ's power dwelling within us and the promise of eternal life with Him in Heaven.**

In rising from the dead, Jesus shows that He is victorious over all, and, as believers, the promises that God is with us, and He is for us. He gives us the confidence to hold on, for when we feel weak, He is strong and helps us in our weaknesses, works miracles in our lives – even when we can't fully see it. We can have that power today – all we need to do is choose to walk in it. It is not about us; it is about Him.

#### **5. We are assured that Jesus is coming again.**

**1 Thessalonians 4** tells us that since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, God, through Jesus will bring all of us who have fallen asleep.

As Christians, we know this truth. Death will not have the final sting. It's not the end of our story. Through Jesus' victory, believers have new life now and for eternity. We are assured, that when we die, our spirit lives on in the presence of Christ, our King. And He will come again, just as God's Word tells us.

**Closing Prayer.**

Dear God, thank You that You make all things new.

Thank You for the victory and power in Your Name.

Thank You that You hold the keys over death, that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You.

Thank You that You had a plan and You have made a way.

We praise You for Your great strength, Your power, Your lavish love.

We praise You that You are Conqueror, Victor, Redeemer and Friend.

We praise You that You are Deliverer, Worthy One, Everlasting Father, Great and Awesome God.

Shine Your light in us, through us, over us.

May we make a difference in this world, for Your glory and purposes.

May we reflect Your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs Your presence and healing.

Thanks be to Your God, for Your indescribable gift? To You be glory and honour, this day and forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.