

## March 31, 2024 Resurrection Sunday

### The Funeral Of Jesus.....

It Was Midnight, On A Saturday, When The  
Announcement Was **MADE**,  
They Were Having Jesus's Funeral Outside His  
Garden **GRAVE**

So Great Was The Crowd That Gathered At That  
Dark Lonely **PLACE**,  
As They Told Of The Greatness Of Jesus, A Look Of  
Loss On Each **FACE**

Tears Filled The Eyes Of Many, Others Were Seized  
By **FEAR**,  
If He Was Who He Claimed To Be, Then How Did  
He Wind Up **HERE**

"All I Know Is I Could Not See" Bartemaus Cried  
**ALoud**,  
"Then Jesus Opened My Blinded Eyes" & A Hush  
Covered The **CROWD**

"I Was Caught In The Act Of Adultery When They  
Threw Me At His **FEET**"  
Mary Cried, "All I Know Is That He Showed Real  
Mercy To **ME**"  
"I Only Had A Picnic Lunch" I Heard A Small Boy  
**SAY**,

"Jesus Blessed The Five Loaves And Two Small  
Fish, And Made An All-You-Can-Eat **BUFFET**"

On And On They Just Kept Coming With Amazing  
Stories To **TELL**,  
Like The Woman Forever Changed When She Met  
Jesus At The **WELL**

"Hey, Let Me Tell You My Story," Lazarus Loudly  
**SAID ...**  
"Jesus Gave Life Back To Me, And I Know I Was  
**DEAD**"

On And On They Just Kept Coming, So Great Was  
His **FAME**,  
"If They Think They Can Hold Him Here", Someone  
Said, "Why They're All **INSANE**"

Then All At Once The Place Got Quiet, Except For A  
Hideous **SOUND ...**  
Laughing, Satan Himself Showed Up, Just Pacing Up  
And **DOWN**

"Fools, All Of You" I Heard Satan **CRY**,  
"Your God Is Dead And Buried, Why, You All Saw  
Him **DIE**"

But Then, Like A Mighty Rushing Wind, In Walked  
The Holy **GHOST**,

Satan Took 2 Steps Back, Trembling, Surrounded By  
A Heavenly **HOST**

“Why Are You Here?” Satan Screamed, When The  
Holy Ghost Turned **ABRUPT**  
“The Master Left A Wake Up Call With The Father,  
And I Just Came To **WAKE HIM UP**”

“When Should I Move The Stone?” Michael, The  
Angel Of War, **ASKED**,  
“When You See The Sunrise,” The Holy Ghost Said,  
“Then You Can Do **THE TASK**”

“Watch The Stone” Satan Cried As Demons Filled  
The **PLACE**,  
“Over My Dead Body Will He Ever Rise.” The Holy  
Ghost Said “**WHATEVER IT TAKES**”

Then The First Ray Of Sunshine Broke Through  
With Morning **LIGHT**,  
What Happened Next Was Awesome, And Such An  
Amazing And **GLORIOUS SIGHT**,

With Just A Little Push, Michael Rolled The Stone  
**AWAY ...**  
The Cold Hard Slab Of Death, There The Body Of  
Jesus **LAY**  
Demons Tried To Hold Him Down As Death  
Strattled His **CHEST**,

“Hold Him Fast” Satan Screamed. Death Replied,  
“I’m Doing My **BEST**”

Then A Demon Shreeked, “I Saw Him Move.”  
Another Cried “It’s **TRUE**,  
I Don’t Think We Can Hold Him Here, We’re Doing  
All We Can **DO**”

It Was Such An Amazing Thing To See, Death Itself  
Giving **BIRTH**,  
As The Morning Sun Came Up, Thunder Rolled  
Shook The **EARTH**

“Oh My God” I Heard Death Say, As Jesus Opened  
Up His **EYES**.  
You Should Have Seen The Look On Death’s Face  
When Jesus Said, “**I TOLD YOU THAT I’D RISE**”

It Showed In Satan’s face, As With Fear His Heart  
Was **SEIZED ...**  
Satan Trembled And Demons Ran As Jesus Shook  
The **KEYS**

Oh Grave, Where Is Your Victory, Oh Death Where  
Is Your **STING**,  
As All Of Hell Was Shaken, All Of Heaven Began  
To **SING**  
You Could Hear The Applause Of Heaven, As God  
Himself Rose From The **THRONE**.

Death Had Been Defeated And There Was A  
Celebration Going **ON**,

So I Guess This Funeral Is Over, He's No Longer In  
The **GROUND**,  
Jesus Rose With Great Power, Proving You Can't  
Keep A Good Man **DOWN**,

So With A Great Ovation Of Praise ... Lift Your  
Voice And **SHOUT**,  
Satan Has Lost The Battle And Of That There Is No  
**DOUBT**,

Now Let All The Earth Rejoice, And All Creation  
**SING**,  
Jesus Is Alive And Well, And Forever The King Of  
**KINGS!**  
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## **Death Defeated, Victory Delivered**

**It's Time to Celebrate...He IS Alive**

**The Tomb & The Grave are Empty**

A Celebration is in order! That right we have a genuine,  
bonafide reason to celebrate today! You know what it is ....  
**HE IS ALIVE! AMEN.... CAN I GET A HALLELUJAH!**

A lot of people say, "I believe in the resurrection. I just don't  
understand it." George Gallup did a poll a few years ago and

said that even 84% of the people who never go to church,  
believe that Jesus rose from the dead. It's an historical fact. It  
wasn't done in secret. The whole city of Jerusalem knew  
about it and eventually the whole Roman Empire. It was  
news. If CNN had been there, they would have had it live.  
There are at least 15 historical references to Jesus meeting  
people, touching people, talking with people. One time He  
cooked breakfast for some people. One time He talked to  
about 500 people after He had risen from the dead. A lot of  
people saw Him.

### **Matthew 28:1-6**

*<sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to  
dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the  
tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an  
angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and  
rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His  
countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as  
snow. <sup>4</sup> And the guards shook for fear of him, and became  
like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel answered and said to the  
women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus  
who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> "He is not here; for He is risen, as He  
said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

### **3 Reasons Why We Can Celebrate The Power of Resurrection!**

- 1. Jesus is who He claimed to be.**
- 2. Jesus has the power He claimed to have**
- 3. Jesus does what He promised to do.**

## 1. JESUS IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE

*John 11:25 Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though He dies".*

Jesus made some outrageous claims when He was here on earth. He said things like, "I'm God.... I'm perfect ... I'm the only way to heaven " I'm the Savior of the world... " A lot of people try to make Jesus a good teacher. A good teacher would never say that.. But if I started calling myself God you wouldn't think I was a good teacher any more. Jesus was either who He said He was or He was as someone stated either a (1) Liar (2) Lunatic, or (3) Lord.

One day Jesus cleared the money changers out of the temple. They had turned the temple into a kind of flea market. He went in and drove them all out. They said, "What right do you have to do this?" He said, "Because I'm God." They said, "Prove it!" He said, "I will. After you kill me, I'm going to come back to life three days later. " He claimed to be God and His resurrection backs up what He claimed to be.

*John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can get to God the Father except by means of me. "*

That's a pretty strong claim. He said I'm the way. He didn't say, I'm one way, I'm a good way, I'm one of the ways. Saying, "All roads get to heaven" is not true. That's like saying I can dial any phone number and get my home phone. There's one number that will get me home phone. Jesus came to earth. God came to earth in the form of a man so we could know what God is like. His name was Jesus Christ. He split

all of history into A.D. and B.C. Every time you write a date, Jesus is the reference point. He said He was who He claimed to be.

## 2. JESUS SHOWS HE HAD THE POWER HE CLAIMED TO HAVE

He said "*All power on earth and in heaven is given to me.* " Because He was God He could do everything God could do. In *John 10:18 He says, "Nobody takes my life from me. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again. "* No force could keep Him in the tomb. The Romans killed Him, they put Him in a tomb, they put the big stone in front of the tomb and then sealed it with the Roman seal and they posted a 24-hour guard. They were only trying to prevent the inevitable. He had all the power in the world. He said, They can't stop me. I can give My life away and I can take it up again. (That's where they get the phrase, "You can't keep a good man down!")

## 3. JESUS DOES WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO

*Mark 10:34 "They will mock and flog and kill me but after three days I will come back to life."*

The cross was no surprise to Jesus. It was all part of God's plan.

When you think about it there's humor in the Easter story. How would you feel if you'd been the guys who put Jesus to death? You publicly executed this man in front of thousands of witnesses who had seen Him die. Then you have Him

buried, a stone put over, sealed and a 24-hour guard. Three days later this guy's up and walking around the city again. What do you say if you meet Him on the sidewalk? "The angel said, 'Don't be frightened. I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. He's come back to life again just as He said He would.

When God makes a promise, you can count on it.

That's what it means. Because Jesus did rise, He is who He said He was, He has the power He said He had and He kept the promises that He made.

**These three facts give rise to three conclusions and applications!**

**Because Jesus is Who He claimed to be and because He has the power He claimed to have and because Jesus does what He promises to do...**

## **1. OUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN**

And that's good news.

**Colossians 2:14** is good news. <sup>12</sup> *Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.* <sup>13</sup> *And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses.* <sup>14</sup> *He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us*

*and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.*

Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross. " This is God's pardon program. He says He nailed it all to the cross. Jesus paid for my guilt That means I don't have to pay for it He was hung for my hang ups. Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross so I can quit nailing myself to the cross. He wants to forgive your past.

He says He wants to cancel every record of all debts you owe -- emotional debts, relational debts, sins. Cancelled. How long do you remember a bill that's been paid? I don't remember it at all.

"There is no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ. " Those of you who are Baby Boomers, remember when you were growing up you had a Etch-A-Sketch? If you messed up the picture you just flip it, shake it, turn it over. There would be a clean slate. This is God's etch-a sketch verse in the bible. He says, I want to wipe it clean. You can walk out of here tonight, knowing that every single thing you've ever done wrong up until this point is completely forgiven. That's good news. That's news I can use. No condemnation! Jesus Christ did not come to rub it in, He came to rub it out. He said, "I didn't come to condemn the world, I came to save it. " He wants to change you, to help you, give you a new beginning, a clear conscious.

SO...Our Past can be forgiven but also

## **2. OUR PRESENT CAN BE VICTORIOUS**

Much of life at times seems unmanageable and a series of failures or shortcomings. We all struggle at times with feeling like we are keeping our heads above water and keeping failures and fear at bay. Especially if you're a parent! Charlie Shedd, an author tells this story on himself, "Before we had kids I use to travel across the country teaching a lecture I called *'The Ten Commandments for Raising Perfect Kids'* before I had kids." After he and Martha had their first child, he changed it to *"Ten Hints for Parents"*. After their second child, he relabeled the lecture, *"A Few Tentative Suggestions For Fellow Strugglers."* He said after the arrival of the third child he gave up speaking on the topic altogether.

Maturity is when you figure out that you can't have it all figured out. Maturity is when you realize that you can't manage and stay on top of all that life is going to send you. But God can. And that's good news. I can't control everything in my life, but God can. So I want to hook up with Him and let Him control it and ask Him for help. All of us have heard comments like..."My life is out of control." I hear it a thousand times. "I feel powerless to change the situation... I feel powerless to break a bad habit... I feel powerless to save a relationship... I feel powerless to get out of debt... I feel powerless to manage my time and my schedule." What you need is a power greater than yourself. You were never meant to live this life just on your own power. God wants to have a relationship with you.

*Ephesians 1 :20 <sup>17</sup> [I pray ]that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of*

*wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. <sup>18</sup> [I pray ]that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength. <sup>20</sup> He demonstrated [this power]in the Messiah by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens—*

The same power than enabled Jesus to rise from death will help you rise above your problems. The same power that God used at resurrection time two thousand years ago can be used in your life right now. You don't know what the future holds. I don't either. I don't know what's going to happen next year, next month, next week. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow and neither do you. But it doesn't matter. Because even though it's out of my control, it's not out of God's. He will give me the power to face it.

*Philippians 4: 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.* God wants to say to you, "Don't give up." No problem is too big for God. No situation is hopeless if you'll turn it over to Him."I am ready for anything through the power of positive thinking"? No, it doesn't say that. "I am ready for anything because I psyched myself up. " No, "I'm ready for anything through the strength of Christ who lives in me. " Why does the resurrection matter? Because OUR past can be forgiven, OUR present can be Victorious, but also...

**3. OUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE.**



One of the universal problems we've all got is death. Everybody dies. I'm going to die someday and so are you. Only a fool would go all through life unprepared for something he knows is inevitable. That doesn't make sense. Sometimes we get so busy in the here and now we don't stop to think about what's going to come. People don't like to talk about death. Invite your friends over sometime, serve them some coffee and pie and say, "Let's talk about death." See what happens. But it's inevitable so let's talk about it. What is it really going to be like? When you go to the Bible, what does God say it's really going to be like in heaven and in hell? One day you're going to stand before God and you're going to need to know the right answers.

What is your source of hope? Hope means confidence in the Bible. (adapted from Rick Warren)

1) Would you like to have every sin, everything you've ever done wrong completely forgiven? Would like to have a clear conscious?

2) Would you like to acquire a new power that would help you manage the problems in your present?

3) Would you like to have your future secured?

That's the difference that Easter can make. How?

**1 Corinthians 15:54a-57**...*Death is swallowed up in victory.<sup>55</sup> O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We all have this promise and gift from God through Jesus.

**Whatever your circumstance** we can be assured because of the Resurrection.

Our Past Can Be Forgiven

Our Present Can Be Victorious

Our Future is Secure

So, what are you waiting for...Claim these promises now!

Invitation