

JESUS ROSE, WE RISE TOO

INTRODUCTION

It was the Resurrection Sunday morning. A Sunday school teacher handed her children all a small empty box and gave them the task of finding something that represented new life and putting it in the box, then there would be a time of show and tell.

Once all the children were back, they started to reveal what they had brought. Some boxes had small newly formed leaves in them, others had flowers. The one little boy brought a box that had nothing in it. It was still empty. The other children laughed at him and teased him for not doing what the teacher had asked. The teacher let him speak. What he said quieted all the teasing and laughing. He said this: "The box is empty; Jesus tomb was also empty. This empty box represents new life."

We have new life too! On Friday we remembered Jesus death on the cross. It was the day when everything changed. Today, we celebrate the mighty miracle that was prophesied by many in the Old Testament, and by Jesus Himself. That He would rise again. What joy to repeat the words of the angel that the two Mary's encountered when they went to the tomb that Resurrection morning, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen".

Jesus is risen! He is not dead. What does that mean to you and I today?

MESSAGE

The New Testament has more than three hundred verses covering the subject of Jesus' resurrection. In the Old Testament we have the parallel with Jonah being in the fish for three days and three nights which Jesus said was a sign of His death and resurrection.

In the book of Job, he asks the universal question in **Job 14:14** "If a man die, shall he live again?". A little later, however, his strong faith in a future resurrection returns, and he exclaims: **Job 19:25,26** "For I know that my redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at last upon the earth: And . . . in my flesh shall I see God".

In the New Testament we read this about the resurrection:

- The Resurrection is a sign for unbelievers – The sign of Jonah was the sign that Jesus gave to an evil and adulterous generation.
 - **Matthew 12:39-40** (NKJV) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- The resurrection answers the believer's doubt.
 - **John 20:29** (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
 - **Luke 24:38** (NKJV) And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."
- The resurrection is evidence that Jesus cannot be kept down.
 - **Acts 2:23-24** (NKJV) Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
- Believing in the resurrection is an absolute key to our salvation as is the confession of our faith.
 - **Romans 10:9** (NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- The resurrection of Christ is a source of POWER for the believer:
 - **Philippians 3:10** (NKJV) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- The resurrected Christ is our groom and we are His bride!
 - **Romans 7:4** (NKJV) 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.
- The resurrection deals with the fear of death.
 - **John 11:25** (NKJV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15** (NKJV) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime **subject to bondage**.
- The resurrection reminds us about our King who is coming again!
 - **Revelation 1:7** (NKJV) Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.
 - **Acts 1:11** (NKJV) who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you

into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- Lastly, this event is a model of the Christian's resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:2; 1 Cor. 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and provides a foretaste of heaven for the believer (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
- The resurrection reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven!
 - **Philippians 3:20-21** (NKJV) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

THE RISEN CHRIST IS THE VERY REASON FOR OUR FAITH AND HOPE

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NKJV) Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

- If Jesus didn't rise, our preaching is worth nothing and our faith is unjustified and futile.
- If Jesus didn't rise, we are still in our sins!
- If Jesus didn't rise, there is no hope for those who died in Christ.
- And if Jesus didn't rise and we can only hope in Christ for our lives on this earth and not eternity, how pitiful we would be.

But verse 20 goes on with glorious truth:

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV) But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Jesus did rise, He is risen, and there is more, He was the first fruits of those who had died – this statement carries the promise that more people will rise! Jesus rose, therefore we who trust Him will also rise.

THE RESSURECTED KING HAS RESURRECTED ME

Romans 6:4-11 (NKJV) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the

Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus lives, but so do we! We live in a newness of life. If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, old things are gone, behold, all things have become new! We are dead to sin but alive in Christ!

Christ's resurrection brings life to us in our mortal bodies as well as eternal life!

Romans 8:10-11 (NKJV) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

We have life in our mortal bodies right now because of the Holy Spirit in us. We participate in resurrected life both now in our mortal body and also in eternity in our glorified body!

2 Corinthians 4:8-12 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed -10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

- Here's the answer to sickness and disease. We may carry it but if we are delivered even to things that threaten our life, Christ's life is also manifested to our mortal flesh to heal us and protect us.
- We can continually trust God for healing because of this!

CONCLUSION

Today we celebrate Christ's magnificent resurrection. There is such life and power in believing in the resurrection. And when we identify with Christ in the resurrection, we will walk daily resurrection power. Jesus rose, we rise too.

- The resurrection of Christ gives us confidence for our own future and removes our doubt.
- The resurrection of Christ removes our fear of dying.

- The resurrection of Christ shows us that Jesus can't be defeated, and if we abide in Him, we will also not be defeated by the enemy.
- Believing in the Resurrected Christ, grants us access to the life-giving power of His resurrection
- The resurrection reminds us to live crucified lives as the Bride of Christ as we eagerly await the return of Jesus Christ, our Groom.
- The risen Christ is the very reason for our faith and hope. If He didn't rise, we would have remained dead in our sins too!
- Finally, the same power that raised Christ dwells in our mortal body, giving us physical life too!

The song's words go like this, "The resurrected King is Resurrecting me". Let that be the cry of our hearts, not only on Resurrection Sunday, let us remember him by living and participating in resurrection life every moment of our lives!