

April 3, 1983 Am -
Easter -
Kate Drummond, April 3, 9:44 AM v. 103
Easter

RESURRECTION REALITIES

Luke 24:1-8

There are some facts which every Easter Sunday has wide acceptance. By some people the facts of Easter are forgotten before the afternoon or before Monday or even Sunday evening. Sometimes the fact is unrelated to life between now and next Sunday not letting it have any impact on their personal lives.

It is a day on the calendar; it has some sentiment, but it just doesn't get through to some of us. My prayer is that this will be the final hour when that truth and that great fact gets through to your heart. We might sing "Come Alive To Me" today, know something of a living Savior in our hearts and lives.

In March 27, 1944, Gordon Keller was pastor of Stockton Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. His telephone rang, informed him that the son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nolte, who was in the armed services was killed. Upon his arrival at the home, he expressed sympathy, he stepped into the room and he met the mother and she exclaimed, "Oh Mr. Keller, it is so hard to give up my son" He tried his best to comfort her. They had been notified that the body was at Jacksonville, Florida, in the hands of a local undertaker. While they sat together in deep sorrow the telephone rang and a Richmond undertaker said to the mother, "Mrs. Nolte, pull yourself together---your son is not dead, but he lives." A few moments later, two daughters arrived who had heard

about his death. They burst into tears, who upon being informed that their brother was not dead, wrung their hands and wept for joy. Keller said that (he had never seen a happier family.)

This is the Easter message---(resurrection, reality.) Jesus Christ, God's son, is not dead, but is alive forevermore. We want to speak about these realities.

I. First as a fact---The fact of the resurrection.

1- First, it was a predicted and prophesied fact. Centuries before in the Old Testament, we had the message of one to come who would fulfill all Old Testament sacrifices---the lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world and slain in time for us fulfilling all the sacrifices of the lambs ever offered during the Old Testament era.

It was also predicted that while he would suffer many things at the hands of sinners that also while his body would be put into the grave would never experience corruption. His soul would never be kept in Hades. He would rise again triumphant of death and the grave, ever to live at God's right hand, making intercession for us.

Until the clock shall strike again when God shall send Him back to earth to do the unfinished business.

A predicted prophesied fact, and you follow that through and you realize the Christian faith is a (supernatural faith). The Bible is a

divine book---it is no product of the mind.

The Holy Spirit predicted His coming, even the details of His birth, the details of His death, who He would be crucified with--- the fact that the Lord Jehovah said he would die with the transgressors and be buried with the rich in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

What a marvelous document this is. He came in right on schedule just in time.

2 - Second this a literal and historical fact. In some churches today, there has crept in unbelief and apostasy. Some will say that it means that the spirit of Jesus is with us in the world today. Some do not believe that it was a literal physical resurrection.

It is interesting to note the disciples themselves were not prepared for that. They were not easily convinced that He was alive; they were not prepared for such.

Thomas said unless I see and put my finger in the prints of his hands and side, I will not believe. The next time Jesus appeared to them behind closed doors, He said, "Be not faithless Thomas, touch me, handle and see that a spirit hath not flesh and bones."

Thomas fell down and worshipped Him and said ("My Lord and my God.")

After His resurrection, He broiled some fish on a fire by the Galilee and He did eat with His disciples.

Crucified but raised again with the (same body) with which He was crucified---a body with the prints of nails in the hands and the feet and a body which had undergone certain changes which some day shall be ours. We shall have a body like unto His own glorious body. A body that has undergone transformations to be sure, but a body nevertheless that could walk the paths of Palestine still, climb the Mount of Olives and that with raised hands upon His disciples giving them the Great Commission, suddenly that body lifted off and left planet Earth as He said to go and prepare a place for you---and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again that where I am there ye may be also.

This (fantastic story)--has it really gotten through to you?

The resurrection fact so that the power of death and the grave is broken.

He partook of flesh and blood that He might taste death for every man---also that he might deliver those who fear of death who all their lifetime are subject to bondage. (O death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory.)

It was a real resurrection. Some people have tried to tell us His body was (stolen). It is farfetched to believe that His disciples would steal His body and preach through their lifetime that He was

Prayer Today: Know Realities + Results of R!
Paul Philippians 3:10 "yea, as long as to come to know Him". That is, the power of His resurrection and so to share with him His sufferings as to be continuously transformed by his death, in the hope of attaining in some measure, the Resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead.

1. Church became a Visible Society

Words of our Risen Lord: "As my Father hath sent me, Even so send I you".

As He left for heaven, He left His Church behind.

a Visible Witness.

Through human channels flow the influences of heavenly Grace.

Her commission as a visible Church is to be accomplished by visible members.

2. Church is a Missionary Society.

Mission is in her attitude towards the

fulfillment of the Lord's revealed will, the needs of mankind, & His worldwide Kingdom.

Spectacular Growth of the Early Church!

Acts 2:47 "The Lord added Daily -

Amazing, increase by thousands.

Every Convert, could go see The Empty Tomb

Continued Growth - Because of Love. 1

Some grave Diggers try bury the Church!

Essential Feature, Church took on whole World - by open

Leonhard Dober, Early Moravians, on heart must be
Missionary, to Negroes of West Indies 1732 -

Even though it might involve his selling himself
as a slave in order to reach them. So
entire was his sacrifice, sleep at
night, with an open Bible, light came,

Deut. 32:47: "It is not a vain thing for
you, because it is your life!" He saw in it
the call of God, and became the first missionary
sent by Christian Europe to the slaves.

He was right. The 'Life', whether of the
Church or of the individual, depends on the
fulfillment of the mission.

3. A Ministering Society

The Church is awake to her true responsibilities
following the Resurrection Christ breathed them
his Risen Life -

The Gospel of the Church is the offer
of Salvation John 20:23 "Whosoever you forgive on earth, I will forgive them; and whosoever you bind on earth, I will bind on heaven."
First, ~~the~~ Forgiveness of Sins. - Why? Why?
we need to make a path to Jesus death and
Resurrection when we preach.

James Stewart, ought to be clear if waste
time on other things, better resign & determine
every sermon tells the old story death - R -

As in one Church a note appeared on
The Pulpit "Sir, we would see Jesus"
later, recorded "Then were the disciples
glad when they saw the Lord."

Chraiah looked in his telescope & found
prophecy 800 yrs in advance 53:4-5

Peter at Pentecost preached R. Act 2:22-29
Zavonarola, Florence, Burning message
The Scripture lead to Christ not a priest!

Medieval picture of earthly monarch
Henry II in the yard of Countess Matilda's
Castle, a penitent sinner, standing in
the snow barefooted, clothed in wool,
3 days and nights, till the priest who
sat within should admit and absolve him!

This is not the spirit of the society
of Christ, The Gospel is the offer of salvation.

Luther, The just live by faith!

Spurgeon's first sermon "unto you
therefore which believe He is precious"

second, challenge - urgency woe is me if I preach

not Christ - Resurrection gives urgency!

Jeremiah tried to buy quiet - word of sword like a
fire in my bones - Had to speak!

Angel at Tomb told Women "Go quickly & tell!"

Paul The Time is short -

Baxter - I preach as never sure to preach

again as a dying man to dying men.

Third, Compassion -

Following the R, hearts of men warmed, set on fire, transformed.

Beecher: Want your Neighbor to know Christ, let him see what Christ has done for you!

Judson: As he walked the street, people would say, "There goes Jesus Christ man!"

Dr. J.W. Chapman went to find Sam Hadley to Water St. Mission - visited shameful den of iniquity could stand no more, Sam to his knees burdened for the sin, suffering - Breaks my heart.

Jesus, showed compassion, wept over city.

At Easter one year Telephone 11 P.M. - wish Happy Easter, Sweet lady 80 plus yrs - Sunday be a great day of joy, I'm going to Church.

- P. Results - C-Visible Society ✓
- C- Missionary ✓
- C- Ministry ✓
- C- Future Kingdom ✓

Him, I am forgiven; my sins were punished on the cross.

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

That's what the empty tomb says. God who at different times in audible voice and in different ways said "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

God said with the empty tomb, there is my beloved son, your sins are paid for and my satisfaction and availability to you as a free gift---Jesus paid it all.

Now if you will close in on His offer, I will save you, cleanse you, give you eternal life and you will be able to say to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. That is the foundation of our redemption.

III. The resurrection as a future.

Now we have spoke about the fact of the resurrection, we have spoke about the foundation of the resurrection; now we come to speak of the future.

1- First it means there is a future kingdom. There is a future for this world. That literal body that was lifted off from the Mount of Olives, ye men of Galilee why stand ye here gazing up into heaven; the same Jesus shall so come in like manner as you have seen

Him go.

That makes sense to me. He must come back.

The blessed story must not end with His empty tomb and ascension,
but He ought to come back.

The final chapter is when He will come and straighten out the
mess in this world. He is going to do it. Jesus shall reign,
wherever the sun do his successive journeys run. So there is a
future kingdom in the resurrection of realities.

2. Second, there is a future reunion. Now this is what helped
Christianity win its way in that Roman world---thank God for it.

A message of hope like the world had never heard before. The
Christians in Thessalonica were seeing their loved ones die like
flies all around them. They were being persecuted and there was
trouble on every hand.

Paul says "I am writing to you that you sorrow not like those
who have no hope, for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again
we believe also when He comes He will bring the dead with Him and
the dead in Christ will rise first." Death is doing its worst---
we are dying now.

The reunion is coming. It may come faster than we believe.

R. Radtke

15,000 officers Poland army
that burning one grave
Dr. Christ
ask forgiveness
could

It may come today.

Gerhard Claas, a German preacher, said that he always goes to the cemetery early on Easter morning. He says that may be a strange thing to do, but it will give you a different understanding of the resurrection and of Easter.

He happened to be in Russia on a visit on this Easter Sunday and he went out to the cemetery as his custom was to a great hole that had been covered with grass where 150,000 Jews had been shot and buried there. He said as he stood there a Jewish lady came to the cemetery ^{flower} and he spoke with her. She told him that she had lost all her loved ones during that war and she was the only one that had survived and she had become a Baptist. He said I, being a German, could not really look her in the eyes though I had never killed anyone. He said I said Madam, can you ever forgive us? And then he said it was the woman lifted up his head, looked into his eyes in deep thought and she said Oh, brother, we are not Germans, we are not Russians, we are the Lord's family.

The preacher then said what was a tragic time and moment turned into a beautiful moment for he knew that the risen Lord by His spirit had brought them together as a family.

See mother and dad, see little baby you put in the grave see brother and sister. The resurrection has a future. We're the only people who have very much of a future---people who have let Christ

into their lives.

The (day of judgment) is going to come when Christians are going to be rewarded, the small and the great shall stand before God and the books were opened.

And another book was opened which was the (Book of Life) and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Now your name may be written on some organizational roll today, but if your name is (not written) down in God's book, you're lost. It is past time when you should have opened your heart to Christ.

I don't know of a better time to do it than Easter Sunday and know for sure that Jesus belongs to you and give that hope to your family.

This death business is a grim business. Under the best of circumstances, it is a rough experience.

But 10,000 times worse if dad or mother does not leave behind to those they love the quiet and the wonderful assurance that all is well and the loved one is in Jesus and with Jesus.

I hope you give your family that kind of hope, that you will not go out into eternity without hope.

Tears may flow, hearts may be broken, empty places in our homes---
it's hard, it's lonely, it's tough---but oh it's so much better when we
know how well off they are in Jesus' presence.

Resurrection realities are for you. Have you prepared? The more
(no's you say) to the Lord the easier it is to say no the next time. It
is time for you to invite Him in and let this fact, this foundation,
this future become your very own.

Re. Results - Christ becoming The First Fruits - pledge
of ingathering -

Dr. W. Bassett-Dallas - being driven to Cemetery -
Not head of house but Dad - Beloved wife -

Grief, frightful, sorrow - Cemetery gates -

Holy spirit flashed to his memory recent Baptismal

service - Raised little girl - sister jumped up O, body
el knew Dr Bassett would not leave his under the water!

At his wife's body being lowered -

Reassuring word - know The risen Lord will

not leave my beloved underneath this cemetery soil.

Assurance is to us - wife, child, father etc -

He is The 1st Fruits of Them that slept -

" He is the sample what is to be !!

in a moment / in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet,

Bodies shall be raised - changed 12 - death has no victory -

Thank you for all you have done for me and my family. I am a true Christian.

X

raised from the grave; some of them year by year for 50 years and most of them paying for that kind of preaching with their lives. That is inconceivable.

The Jews would not remove it---for this they took every precaution to see that it would not happen and they had guards by the tomb to see that no one removed it.

Imagine the disciples standing up and preaching "Ye who slew the Messiah." All they would have to do was to produce the body.

The resurrection as a fact literal is well authenticated. No explanation from the Christian church in the world today unless Christ arose from the dead.

The disciples were in a mood of despair and defeat. They had gone back to their fishing nets, they were downcast---we had hoped that it would be He.

But suddenly they were brought back together again in a unity built on an empty grave and then turning the world upside down at the risk and at the cost of their lives by most of them.

And writing for us the New Testament, the story would never have been written if the account had ended at Calvary.

The resurrection as a fact---God has been at work in history. →