

TESTIMONY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-6

Introduction: Amidst all that indignities that Jesus suffered at the hand of the Jewish officials, there were, however, some friends who were sympathetic with Him. Some stood nearby at His cross as He hung there, one went to the officials and asked for Jesus' body and buried Jesus in his own private tomb. Jesus was not given any burial dignities that normally went with someone being buried/entombed, He was hastily wrapped in burial clothing and laid in the tomb and the appointed guards/soldiers made sure the stone door was rolled shut and sealed. On that third day, early in the morning, before sunrise, friends of Jesus were at the tomb to finish the proper burial process but to their surprise, Jesus wasn't there anymore. What the angels said to some of Jesus' friends later on that day, is repeated to us today: *"...Come to the sepulcher, where He was layed and from where He rose...Come, see the place where the Lord lay..."*

I. THE RESURRECTION IS A WITNESS FOR JESUS

1. The resurrection shows the truth of Jesus' mission/purpose for coming.
 - Jesus had rested all His claims to being the appointed Messiah to His resurrection.
 - *"...Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again..."*
 - Nobody understood what Jesus was saying at first but upon His burial, His enemies remembered His statement about rising again, so they took precautions against some of Jesus' friends taking His body out and claiming He was alive again.
 - Jesus spoke about a greater sign to be given the unbelieving Pharisees: *"...No other sign should be given them that of the Prophet Jonas, for, as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so should the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth..." (Matthew 12:38-40)*
 - In spite of the guards and precautions His enemies took to guard His tomb, Jesus rose at the appointed time and demonstrated that He was indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.
 - Paul clearly affirmed this when he wrote: *"...He was declared to be the Son of God with power, by His resurrection from the dead..." (Romans 1:4)*
 - Come, inspect the tomb and learn from its emptiness that Jesus was/is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.
2. The resurrection shows the sufficiency of Jesus mediation.
 - Jesus came to take away the guilt of a sinful, ruined world and to redeem mankind to God by His blood.
 - Under the sins of mankind, Jesus died.
 - How can one be sure that what Jesus did accomplished that which He said He came to do?
 - His resurrection proved beyond any doubt that Jesus accomplished what He came here to do.
 - Jesus died on a cross for the sins of mankind (us) and was buried in a tomb when dead, but He rose on the third day just like He said He would IF all worked as planned.
 - Jesus, very clearly satisfied all legal claims of law and justice against us on our behalf.

II. THE RESURRECTION IS A PLEDGE TO BELIEVERS (US)

1. It is a promise, a pledge of Jesus Christ's power to raise the believer (us) to a spiritual life.
 - Jesus resurrection is set forth by the scriptures as a pattern to be accomplished in all His followers/beleivers.
 - The same power that raised Jesus from the tomb will also raise believers from the dead as well.
 - **"...And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places..."**
Ephesians 1:19-20
 - **"...But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved..)"**
 - **"...''Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life..." (Romans 6:4)**
 - **"...No man taketh (my life) from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..." (John 10:18)**

2. It is a promise, a pledge of Jesus' determination to raise up believers to eternal life.
 - **John 6:40-54 "..."I will raise him up at the last day..."**
 - Upon His own resurrection, Jesus has given His promise that all who believe in Him shall also be resurrected.
 - **"...Now is Christ risen from the dead and is become the firstfruits of them that sleep..."**
(1 Corinthians 15:20)
 - **Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 10:14**
 - Jesus promises to raise every believer in Him up from the dead and give to each believer eternal life. Can Jesus do it? Does Jesus keep His promises/word?

CONCLUSION:

1. As in Jesus' day, people today do not believe in Jesus, except maybe He was an exceptional man, but merely a man, just like anybody else.
 - He did die for what He was doing, but He never rose from the dead and therefore is not some "savior" of the world.
 - To those who do not believe in Jesus, come then and see where Jesus was laid and tell "who" moved Him?
 - Will you believe the story that the religious authorities persuaded the soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb to tell, that while they slept (death penalty) on duty, while guarding the tomb, followers of Jesus slipped in and took His body away?
 - Is that what you believe?
 - Then explain how within 40 days Jesus appeared to many of His followers, even ate with them and then as several hundred watched, Jesus began to rise up into the clouds and then disappeared into heaven. Explain that!

2. In Jesus' day many looked for Him until they found Him for different reasons, but they kept looking until they found him.
 - Some women came to Jesus' tomb that morning to finish the burial process but were greeted by an angel who said, "***...Fear not thou, for thou seekest Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen as He said, Come see the place where the Lord lay...***"
 - He was gone then but He is present now and "***...He is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him...***"
 - If YOU are looking for Jesus, He can be found and is ready to bring you into God's Family.
 - Are You looking for Jesus?