

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 27:62-66

Introduction: There were those who "half-believed" what Jesus said about His resurrection on the third day then and there are "half-believers" today. Some want to believe, some are afraid to believe, some are very avid about their unbelief and then there are those of us who believe. Since, not "if," the resurrection is a fact what does it mean to those of us who believe it happened? What is the significance of the resurrection?

I. FACTS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. Without the resurrection, it is impossible for Jesus Christ to be glorified.
 - 40 days later, Jesus ascended to God's right hand to sit, thus ushering in a new era in heaven and on earth.
 - A human/God sitting beside God the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit sent to indwell EVERY believer permanently.
 - The start of the Church age.
 - Satan's increased activities since Jesus was not earth, personally.
 - *John 7:39* - Deity couldn't die on a cross or sit down.
 - Humanly, part of Jesus died on the cross, resurrected and sat down.
 - Jesus' soul, body, spirit, deity were all reunited.
2. The resurrection indicated the completion of Justification.
 - The believer is potentially (one day to be complete) as good as Jesus.
 - The cross took away man's sin, the resurrection assures the fact.
 - "Justification by works" - Words and Works together in man's eyes.
 - "Justification by faith" - Faith in Jesus alone.
3. The resurrection of Jesus is our greatest guarantee of ultimate Sanctification.
 - God's Word changes us.
 - Upon our resurrection, our sinful humanity will be left behind.
4. Without the resurrection there is no Priesthood of Jesus.
 - Jesus had to become a person and ascend to become our High Priest after the order of Melchizedic.
5. Without the resurrection there is no Mediatorship of Jesus.
 - We are still separated from God without hope unless Jesus is standing between us and God, joining us together.
6. The resurrection made the Davadic Covenant possible.
 - God promised David a heir to rule forever. It takes a human being to do that. Jesus will sit on David's throne forever.

II. FACTS OF THE RESURRECTION

1. An empty tomb - What do we see at cemeteries? Not the same with Jesus. His tomb is empty and one day ours will be too.
2. The competency of the witnesses - Jesus appeared 17 times to women, His disciples, His brother, James, to Peter, to over 500 at one time on a mountain top.
3. The subsequent change in the Disciples - Once they were fearful and in hiding, then openly preaching and witnessing fearlessly.
4. The Day of Pentecost substantiates the resurrection - The Holy Spirit was poured out upon a number of the followers of Jesus with fire and tongues as evidence.
5. The observation of Sunday (first day of the week) as the Day of Worship opposed to the traditional seventh day of Saturday, the Sabbath.
6. The fact of the Church - Satan has been unable to stop the onward march of the Church.

III. CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

1. He had the nail prints in His hands.
2. He had the spear gash in His side.
3. His followers recognized Him.
4. He could eat or not eat.
5. He had real flesh and bone, "handle me" He said.
6. He could breathe and breathed upon His disciples.
7. He could walk through closed doors.
8. He could move vertically or horizontally instantly.
9. He was totally human.
10. He could appear or disappear instantly.

CONCLUSION:

1. Each person is left to either believe or not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. Belief brings eternal life, disbelief brings eternal damnation. What is your choice?