

EASTER 2020

He's Alive!

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 (NIV)



The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our Christian faith. It is what distinguishes Christianity from all other religions — a living Savior! Jesus' death on the cross was necessary to ensure our salvation and part of God's plan from the beginning, but without the resurrection, death would not have been conquered and would have won the ultimate victory. 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 tells us, ²¹ *“For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”* Salvation is only possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. The church did not create the resurrection stories; rather the resurrection stories created the church. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions. Through the resurrection, Christ demonstrated that He does not stand in a line of peers with Abraham, Buddha, or Confucius. He is utterly unique. He has the power not only to lay down His life, but to take it up again.

Hank Hanegraaff, [Resurrection](#)

As followers of Christ, we all believe this, accept it as fact, and build our faith upon this truth; but how often do we stop to ponder what it really

means on a personal level? In this lesson we will examine the depths of meaning in the resurrection of Jesus:

- I. To the people of His time
- II. To all believers' future hope
- III. For believers right now and its impact on how we live our lives

Let God speak to you personally as you meditate on His Word this Easter season.

Begin by reading the resurrection account in Luke 24:1-49. (*All Scriptures and references are provided at the end of the lesson.*)

I. What Jesus' Resurrection Meant to the People of Jesus' Time

Cultural Context

It is important to understand what the term *resurrection* would have meant to the people during Jesus' time. Consider the following people groups:

- ❖ Gentiles
 - No belief in resurrection
 - Pagan
- ❖ Jews – primarily two camps of thought:
 - Jewish Sadducees
 - No belief in resurrection, afterlife, or anything supernatural (so they were *sad, you see?*)
 - Adhered strictly to the written Law of Moses, rejected oral tradition

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- Rome appointed a Sadducee to the office of high priest; the Sanhedrin (the supreme Jewish tribunal) was predominantly made up of Sadducees
 - Sadducees were aristocratic, wealthy, elite
 - Rejected Messianic ideas; Sadducees were loyal to Rome
- Jewish Pharisees
 - Believed in a bodily resurrection of the dead at the triumphal arrival of the Messiah
 - The resurrected righteous would be rewarded and welcomed into the Messiah's kingdom
 - The resurrected unrighteous would be judged and enter punishment
 - Gave equal weight to oral tradition and God's written Word
 - Pharisees had the common people's respect, were educated, ran synagogues
1. Read John 11:17-27 which takes place as Jesus goes to Bethany after hearing that His friend Lazarus had died. Read also Luke 16:19-31, a story (of a different Lazarus) which Jesus tells a group of Pharisees to illustrate their hard hearts. Together with the cultural context given above, what did the concept of resurrection mean to the people of Jesus' time?

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2. How did Jesus' resurrection help His followers understand [Old Testament] Scripture? Re-read Luke 24:5-8, 25-27, and 44-48. Compare these verses and Jesus' own words in Luke 18:31-33 to the following Old Testament references: Isaiah 53:10-11 and Psalm 16:9-11.)

 3. Review Luke 24:9-10, 33-35, and 46-49. What did each of these groups do with the news that they had seen the living Jesus? How do you think their experience impacted others who had witnessed Jesus' death?

 4. Relating to our study on the Life of Abraham, how does Jesus' resurrection fulfill God's promise to Abraham that through his descendants all the nations of the world would be blessed?

III. What Jesus' Resurrection Means for Believers Right Now

At the cross we learn true humility, our hopeless sinfulness, and our need of God. At the empty tomb, we fully appreciate what Christ has achieved for us and receive power to live for him. A deeper, fuller insight into the truth of Jesus' resurrection will cause our lives to be radically transformed."

Adrian Warnock,
Raised with Christ: How the Resurrection
Changes Everything

7. What do you observe in the following Scriptures regarding salvation (deliverance from the power of sin and its control over our lives)? How does that this knowledge free you to serve God more effectively?

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

Romans 6:5-7

Acts 4:10b-12

8. The word *justification* in the Biblical sense means to be declared righteous (just) in the sight of God. From these verses, what do you learn about justification and how does it affect your thinking about how God sees you?

Romans 5:22-25

Romans 3:23-24

9. Record your observations from the following verses and consider what it means to you that Jesus is alive, sitting next to God pleading (interceding) for you. In what ways does that encourage you as you face the challenges and heartaches of day-to-day living in a difficult world? How does it affect the way you approach God?

Hebrews 4:14-16

Romans 8:34

10. Read the following Scriptures and take time to ponder what it means that Christ lives in you. How does understanding this truth give you confidence in fulfilling the purpose God has for you?

Galatians 2:20

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Philippians 4:13

11. Reflect on all you know to be true about Jesus from this lesson and from any other Scripture that the Spirit brings to mind. Think about His power and authority, His heart, His character – what pleased Him, what made Him angry, how He reacted to people and situations, His relationships, etc. Knowing that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you, how should/does it affect your relationship first with God and then with the people in your life – nonbelievers, as well as believers; people you love; and people with whom you struggle?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) At what point does eternal life begin? Do we have to wait until we die to experience it? (1 John 5:11-13, John 3:16, John 3:36)
- II) Any additional thoughts/Scriptures about what it means to you personally that Jesus is alive and his Spirit lives in you?

Same Power
Jeremy Camp (2015)

I can see waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face every fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

We have hope that His promises are true
In His strength there is nothing we can't do
Yes, we know there are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

The same power
that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power
that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power
that moves mountains when He
speaks
The same power
that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us
He lives in us, lives in us

Greater is He that is living in me
He's conquered our enemy
No power of darkness
No weapon prevails
We stand here in victory
God, he lives in us

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Scripture for this Lesson

☐ Luke 24:1-49

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” ⁸ And they remembered His words, ⁹ and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and

Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

¹³ And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and *said* to them, "Peace be to you." ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* before them.

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You

are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

□ **Luke 24:5-8**

⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” ⁸ And they remembered His words,

□ **Luke 24:25-27**

²⁵ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

□ **Luke 24:44-48**

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

☐ Luke 18:31-33

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, ³³ and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”

☐ Isaiah 53:10-11

¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased
To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief;
If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering,
He will see *His* offspring,
He will prolong *His* days,
And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.
¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see *it and* be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.

☐ Psalm 16:9-11

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will dwell securely.
¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
¹¹ You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

