

Behold His Glory – Journey to the Cross Series (5)

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Text: Matthew 28:1-10

NOTES

A. Resurrection Sunday

1. Two thousand years ago God stopped into time. Jesus came to earth and demonstrated what God was like. **Pastor Derrick:** *“Christ’s resurrection is the fireworks of God’s glory on display on Easter Sunday.”*
2. The demonstration of God here on earth in justice, love, mercy, grace, and hope exploded at the resurrection.
3. Sin had to be judged.
 - a. In the crucifixion, we see the justice of God when our sin was laid on Jesus the perfect One.
 - b. In Jesus’ resurrection, we see God’s justice worked out in love as He extends grace to all.
4. The power of God on display:
 - a. Lazarus was not resurrected but resuscitated. He had to experience death again.
 - b. Jesus was resurrected with new power to never die again. **Pastor Derrick:** *“At the resurrection God performed a dramatic act by which He arrested the processes of death.”*
 - c. When we accept Jesus, this eternal life becomes ours. **Billy Graham (quoting D.L. Moody):** *“Someday you’ll read that Billy Graham is dead. Don’t believe it. At that moment, I shall be more alive than I am right now.”*
 - d. Because of the resurrection, God’s life in us—His attributes—can be on display in us for all to see.

B. Three Gardens

1. The Garden of Eden: this is the garden of sin, rebellion and separation from God – Romans 3:23.
2. The Empty Tomb Garden: restores the possibility of a renewed connection with God. **Pastor Derrick:** *“All who repent can receive forgiveness. God shares His glory, love, power, healing and hope with us.”*
3. A New Garden: a new Eden, our future hope and destiny which we enter now when we ask God into our lives.

C. Baptism

1. When God shares His glory, we follow Him in baptism.
2. **Pastor Derrick:** *“If you have repented and opened your heart to the reality of God’s grace, you can become a follower in baptism.”*
3. Baptism is a powerful symbol of being buried with Christ and raised to new life – Romans 6:4,5.

DISCUSSION

1. What is the significance of Resurrection (Easter) Sunday to the Christian church? What is its significance to you? Share your thoughts and stories.
2. How was Jesus’ resurrection different from being brought back to life experienced by Bible characters like Lazarus? What is available to us because of Jesus’ resurrection?
3. Pastor Derrick talked about three gardens. What were they and how are they connected to Easter Sunday?
4. How would you explain baptism to someone who had never heard of or witnessed it before? If you have been baptized on your own volition (because you requested it), explain why you took this step and what it meant / means to you.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth, showing us what God was like by Your life, then paying the punishment for our sins by Your death. Through Your resurrection, You conquered death once and for all—Hallelujah! Help us, through the power of the Holy Spirit—Your Spirit—to display the beauty and power of Your life. Amen.