

Meditations on the Resurrection of Christ (The first version of this sermon is from Easter of 2010)

In the midst of Job's suffering, he said, **"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed yet in my flesh I shall see God"** (Job 19:25-26). By faith, Job looked forward to the Redeemer who would come one day. And, he looked forward to the resurrection of the dead.

Now, let's move forward to a lady named Martha. She, along with her sister, Mary and brother Lazarus were some of Jesus' best friends. In John cp. 11 Lazarus had been dead four days, and Jesus said to Martha, **"Your brother will rise again. Martha said to him I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? She said, to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."** Like Job, we see a woman of faith, who believed in the resurrection, yet did not understand all of its implications.

Today, looking back, having all the Scriptures to instruct us, knowing that our redeemer stood on the earth, died, and was risen, and will one day return, we rejoice. Today, I would like for us to meditate upon the resurrection with some clear applications that we know to be true.

Let's begin by reading the story of the resurrection from the Gospel according to Matthew. **Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you. So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, Greetings! And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me** (Matt.28:1-10).

The reason we are here today is because our Lord is risen from the dead. And, as we prepare to take the Lord's Supper, remembering his death and waiting for his return, I cannot think of a better subject to meditate upon than our Lord's resurrection. Listen to our confession concerning the way of salvation. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the

divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. This morning I would like to answer this question: How does the resurrection of Christ make Him an all sufficient savior? Today, we look back, with the full revelation of God in our hands, unlike Job and even Martha. I have 7 meditations to consider this morning.

1. The resurrection proves Jesus to be the long-awaited King from the line of David. Listen to the words of God spoken through the prophet Nathan to David: **“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. . . And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever”** (2 Sam. 7:12-13;16).

Now listen to the words of Paul to the Romans. Jesus **“who was descended from David according to the flesh, and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. . .”** (Rom. 1:3-4) Now that Christ is risen from the dead and established as our King, we can rest assured that one day He will return and establish his throne on the earth and rule over his kingdom, which extends to all of creation.

2. The resurrection proves that Jesus’ teaching was and is truth that we can trust. The passage we just read from Matthew said, **“He is not here, for He is risen, as he said”** (Matt. 28:6). Matthew tells us in 16:21 that Jesus told the disciples he would die and then rise again. He says, **“From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”**

This means that we can trust the promises of Jesus to come true. For example, Jesus said he will come again in judgment. In John 5:25-29 he says, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”** Jesus will also come again and reward his disciples. In John 14:3 Jesus said, **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”**

Today, because Jesus said he would die and rise again, he will also do all the other things he said he would do. You can trust this today!

3. The resurrection proves that He is the very Son of God. Although we read of miracles where people have come back from death, only the Son of God was raised by his own power. Again, Rom. 1:4 says **“He was declared to be the Son of God in power . . . by the resurrection of the dead.”** Paul said to the Corinthians, **“For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God.”**

4. The resurrection is a declaration of the Father that the last enemy is defeated. Paul says, **“Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (1 Cor. 15:54-56). Because of the resurrection of our Lord, the curse of death no longer has power over those who are in Christ. Our sins are forgiven (past, present, future), and curse from the garden of Eden has been overcome!

5. The resurrection of Christ is a pattern of our own resurrection. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:20-22, **“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”** As Christ’s body was resurrected in complete, perfect health, so too will we rise and never experience pain, injury, or death ever again. This is because through the resurrection Jesus has put death to death.

6. The resurrection secures our blessings as believers. The resurrection is necessary to finish the work of redemption. The greatest practical blessing we have is salvation. Salvation includes calling, redemption, adoption, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Salvation is all of this! And, the resurrection secures all of these things. The atoning work of Christ, if it was to be effective at all, had to terminate, not in death, but in life. Rom. 4:5 says, **“He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”** Our right standing before God is based upon the work of Christ in his resurrection. We are justified in Christ. Because of his death and resurrection, those who are in Christ, “have no condemnation,” but instead are declared not guilty by the judge of the earth. If you are in Christ today, all of your sins (past, present, future) have been forgiven.

What about our sanctification (our growth in holiness)? Listen to Rom. 6:5. **“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”** Because our Lord has overcome the power of sin, which is ultimately death, by the Spirit, we are no longer slaves to sin. The same Holy Spirit that rose Christ from the dead will also be in us. This means that you can have victory over your sins. This also means that all spiritual gifts given to us are based upon our Lord’s resurrection. Ephesians 4:8 says, **“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”**

7. The resurrection is the Father's seal on the completed work of Christ, the public declaration of its acceptance. The Resurrection declares that Jesus is the exalted Head of the Church and Universal Lord! He sits at the Right Hand of the Father and rules over all! He is worthy! Jesus is Lord! I will end with the words from Colossians 1:15-18. **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”**