

Celebrating the Resurrection

A six-year-old boy was taking a walk one day with his grandmother when they took a detour through the local cemetery. They stopped to read some of the tombstones and Grandma explained that the first date on the tombstones was the day the person was born and the second date was the day the person died. "Why do some tombstones only have one date?" he asked. "Because those people haven't died yet," his grandmother explained. He was obviously stunned by his grandmother's explanation because, that night, he couldn't stop talking about the excursion. "Mom," he said with wide eyes, "did you know some of the people buried there in the cemetery aren't even dead yet!"

This month we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. There is no need to go looking for a grave marker because there's no grave. The stone has been rolled away and Jesus is more alive than ever because not even death could hold Him. Imagine how the disciples felt when they witnessed the resurrected body of Jesus three days after watching him die on the cross. The awe and wonder, fear, and joy had to have driven them to their knees as they realized Christ's triumph over death. They thought he was dead but now he was alive. Peter and John were there. They had seen Him die. They probably helped take down the body and lay it in the tomb. And now, they saw the risen Christ with the nail prints in his hands and feet. Seeing the Risen Lamb they saw and believed and their lives were forever eternally changed.

We do not remember where He was buried, we remember the resurrection. We only need a tomb if there's a body. Jesus was raised from the dead. And later He ascended into heaven. Because of Jesus defeating sin and death we can celebrate!

We Celebrate the Resurrection Because it Proclaims God's Great Act Of Grace

A man was seen running toward a large river and just as he reached the dock he increased his speed and when he came to the end he jumped and threw himself as high and as far as he could before hitting the water. He landed about ten feet from the dock. As soon as he surfaced he swam back to the land and tried it again, over and over again. When asked, "What in the world he was doing?" He said, "A friend of mine bet me a million dollars that I couldn't jump across the river and after thinking about thought I should at least give it a try, even though he had no chance of jumping across the river on his own."

We have no chance whatsoever of defeating death on our own. We have no chance whatsoever of finding forgiveness on our own. It doesn't work that way. We can't work our way to immortality. We can't will our way to immortality. We can't do enough good deeds or give enough money to earn God's forgiveness. There's only one way to receive forgiveness and life eternal and that's through what Christ did for us on the cross and at the empty tomb. It is ours simply by an act of Grace, a gift from God for those who believe.

We Celebrate the Resurrection Because It Completed of God's Forgiveness

Without the resurrection, we'd never know that our sins are truly forgiven? You see, Jesus didn't come back just to show us he had been raised from the dead. He came back to tell us and to show us in his nail scarred hands and feet that through His sacrifice on the cross we are forgiven. He came back to fill us with the Holy Spirit, His Divine presence with us each and every day whispering, singing, reminding us that we are forgiven. That's Easter. The Risen Christ came

back to life to assure the disciples that they were forgiven. The Risen Christ came back to life to assure us we are forgiven.

We Celebrate the Resurrection Because Its A Reminder that No Matter What God Is In Control!

Easter is the piece of string wrapped around the finger to remind us that life as we know it, isn't all there is. Easter is the post it note that reminds us God is in charge of everything, especially life and death and judgment and forgiveness. Easter is the living memo of the depth of God's unconditional love! Easter and the resurrection are reminders.

A minister who never sang much because he didn't have much of a voice and couldn't read music was persuaded the choir to practice with the choir for Easter Sunday. They were doing the "Hallelujah Chorus" and he really got caught up in the last part when they were singing all of those "Hallelujah's." He loved to sing those Hallelujahs and he was just about to sing a couple more when all of a sudden the choir stopped, the director stopped and the organ stopped. He said that they had stopped too soon. He said all that day and for weeks to come I felt like I was going around with a couple of Hallelujahs inside of me just waiting to get out."

Easter is the day that fills us up with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the day we realize we have a couple of Hallelujahs waiting to get out. Let them out! Accept this act of grace for you, let Christ complete God's forgiveness in your life, and know that God is In Control. Live the life Christ has called you to live, so others will see and believe that Christ is alive and the tomb empty because others see Him living in you.