

Easter

4/2/18

We have all heard the phrase, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming” from S.M. Lockridge. It is a great message, isn’t it? As we conclude Easter weekend, I was thinking, “It’s Sunday, but Monday’s coming.” It is easy to have a great weekend of worship and then experience the ho-hum of normal life today. The reality is that there is nothing ho-hum or normal about living life in the power of the Spirit.

As the passion week concluded, the message and ministry of the events of that week did not. In fact, they were just ramping up! In the days immediately following the resurrection, the disciples’ lives were absolutely revolutionized. As the women discovered the empty tomb, they were terrified and the disciples were confused. Luke records in [Luke 24:9-11](#) that the words the women shared with the disciples seemed to be an idle tale and they did not believe them. With all the teaching and preparation that they had, they still couldn’t grasp the reality of the risen Christ, and what the implications were.

For 40 days Jesus in a sense retaught the disciples. All that He had done and said took on entirely new significance because of the reality of the resurrection. His death, burial, and resurrection changed everything for them. Following Jesus was now way more than walking around Palestine with the teacher and miracle worker.

Textually that leads us to the book of Acts. Luke continues His gospel account in the book of Acts. The entire name of the book is “The Acts of the Apostles”. It is the story of what God did through the men who had been with Jesus and now were empowered by the Holy Spirit. There seem to be some key elements of these men’s radically changed lives.

1. **They had been with Jesus. ([Acts 4:13](#))**

The Apostles had heard what Jesus said and seen what Jesus did. They had been with Jesus and been discipled by Him.

2. **They had seen the risen Lord.**

The resurrection had changed their perspective. Even after all that they had heard and seen, it was seeing the resurrected Jesus that changed everything for them.

3. **They had been commissioned by Jesus.**

Jesus had personally commissioned them. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)) Understanding that they were God’s plan for the spreading of the gospel changed their purpose.

4. **They were empowered by the Holy Spirit. ([Acts 2](#))**

The indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit was the culmination of the gospel in their lives. The gospel doesn’t end with what we believe. It includes who we become as the Holy Spirit indwells and empowers believers.

In reality, all of these are part and parcel of the Easter story. Just as the story does not end with the crucifixion, it doesn’t end with the resurrection. Acts is the continuation of His Story, as are our lives. So what difference does the resurrection really make in our lives. Think through the four observations above (and you may well have others) to see if they are realities on your life on a daily basis. Perhaps there are some things that we need to review and rethink in our experience of Him.

Questions to consider:

1. Have you been with Jesus much lately? It is so easy to get busy and bothered. Think of the story of Mary and Martha. (Luke 10) I tend to forget what Jesus said about the more excellent thing. Do people recognize us as men and women who have been with Jesus?
2. Have we experienced the risen Lord? Have we really ever taken the time to be absolutely convinced that Jesus rose from the dead? It is much more than simply an intellectual commitment to a set of facts. Have we ever asked God to bore into our hearts and minds and lives the reality that Jesus is indeed risen?
3. Have we embraced the great commission? Do we really believe that the lost are really lost and we are God's plan to reach them? What does it mean that God is making His appeal through us? (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
4. Have we learned to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 3:14-21) Trying to live the Christian life on our strength will never work. Only in the power of the Holy Spirit will we experience the reality of the gospel in our daily lives. (Galatians 2:20-21)