

April 1, 2018

## The Living Among the Dead                      John 20:1-18

This morning, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. His Resurrection is the lynchpin in our salvation: by it, Jesus regained eternal life for Himself & for everyone who believes – *from & for all time!* Christ's resurrection IS THE victory over His enemy, Satan, and the causal results of sin (*disobedience to God*) – death & hell. His resurrection facilitates Christ's ascension to present His sacrifice on behalf of all mankind for the Father's approval: the final step required to restore man's relationship with God. The resurrection is a critical doctrine and a remarkable demonstration of God's unstoppable love for us!

### 1) Believing Brings Peace (1-10) – to Peter and John

- Mary Magdalene – out of whom Jesus cast 7 demons
- Her mission is urgent: she must honor the body of Jesus by finishing burial preparations (spices/ointments)
- “They” moved His body? *I must prepare it for death?*
- The 2 disciples are together (*not home?*): run to tomb
- John won't go in: something prevents him (*sacredness*)
- Impetuous Peter bursts into the tomb; then John enters
  - wrappings left & treated carefully; not hurriedly*
  - Word (written/spoken) remembered; faith begins!*
- Peter/John return to their own homes; ***faith over fear***

*The mark of saving faith in Christ is unconditional peace that comes from a secure & loving relationship with God because of Christ's Resurrection, not from our own attempts to please God*

***\*Have you received God's salvation in the Resurrected Christ, or are you still trying to earn your own way to God?***

### 2) Duty Misses Peace (11-16) – for Mary

- Mary is inconsolable: she cannot finish her task **for** Him
- 2 angels! No typical greeting! But Mary unimpressed & overwrought! ***v.14 “She turned to leave...!!!”***
- Jesus asks @ her crying; she's despondent, not looking
  - Then she “hears” His familiar, penetrating voice!

*So far, Mary has been focused on a task: to finish honoring and preparing Jesus for burial. These preparations were inter-*

*rupted by Passover (6:00 pm Fri – Sat). Perceived reality & emotional grief had understandably over-taken her (& others) – but what looked/felt real...wasn't! Sometimes our attention to duty overshadows the reality of the presence of Jesus with us in & the peace He is! We may think our routines/responsibilities are too mundane to involve Him; but it's now, in the details of this earthly life, when we need Him, His wisdom & power most!*

***\*Are you learning to rely on Jesus in the details of living? Do you relate to God thru duty or love?***

### 3) God's Approval & Acceptance (17-18) – of Jesus & Us!

- Jesus has not yet completed His reconciliatory work!
  - “I haven't yet ascended...”*** *cling = detain*
- Significance of ascension? Father's approval of C. sacr
- Jesus let's us know that His Father/God IS NOW ours!
- Mary testifies that Christ is Alive to the huddled disc's

*Christ's “Cross-work” that began intentionally before the world was formed and literally at His birth – living a faith-filled life of loving obedience as a man, with out sinning, was now in it's final stage; the presentation of Jesus' sacrifice for the sin of mankind! **But would it be enough to forgive all wickedness, remove all enmity, and restore the relationship Adam forsook in the garden?** Only the Father could say – and His approval of Jesus as the Way to God, the Truth of God, and the Life with God was confirmed when He invited Jesus to sit once again at His right hand! Together, they would send the HS in 50 days!*

***\*Salvation/Eternal Life is a gift God gives to people who repent of their sin & trust Jesus/His reconciling work!***

*-Salvation is not just about eternal life with God after we die, but living life with Him now – as His child, vessel & vice regent, learning and doing His will on earth. It's not just about a mansion for us someday, but about becoming His home today! And the reality of Salvation is a conversion that begins transforming us from inside out to become more & more like Jesus – the One who lives His eternal life in us on earth.*

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON: Luke 24:1-8**

Let's read a passage and act it out – OK? All the girls will be “the women” in the story; and all the boys will be the angels! (*That's what we call “type casting!”*)

I'm going to read & help you act out what is being said!

**1)** *But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2) They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3) So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4) As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.*

**5)** *The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6) He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7) that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”*

**8)** *Then they remembered that he had said this.*

*What specific event (that you just acted out) does Easter celebrate? Jesus' resurrection from death to Life! He died for our sins and was raised to life so we could become friends with God! He said, “**I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies. And everyone who lives & believes in Me will never die!**”*

Sermon in a Sentence: The Living Among the Dead