



The Book Of John
“The Resurrection Of Jesus”
John 20:18

Introduction

Over the last few weeks we have discovered simple but profound observations regarding the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Observation One

Spiritual Awareness.

Observation Two

I Was Born For This— The Power Of Living On Mission

Today we are going to discover:

Observation Three

The Resurrection Of Jesus

Scripture

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what He had said to her.** CSB

Quote Of The Day

“The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that we are now invited to belong to it.” — N. T. Wright

“The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place, then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth.
— Henry M. Morris

Some two-thousand years ago when Jesus walked out of the tomb the world was changed forever! Jesus, the suffering servant who had been betrayed by Judas, deserted and denied by His disciples, arrested, beaten beyond recognition, bloodied, mocked, humiliated, spit on and was executed on a cruel cross— was raised to life. **In a miraculous display of God’s Divine power, Jesus walked out of the tomb as the champion over sin, death, hell and the grave.**

Before we examine the events of the Resurrection we must recognize the hopelessness of those mourning the death of Jesus!

What is Hopelessness?

Hopelessness is the settled conviction that nothing can change for the better—as a result, our present condition as well as the future, ceases to feel like a place where help, meaning, or relief actually exists.

What does Hopelessness look like?

Philip Yancey describes a unique funeral custom conducted by African Muslims. Close family and friends circle the casket and quietly gaze at the corpse. No singing. No flowers. No tears.

A peppermint candy is given to everyone. At the signal, each person puts the candy in their mouth. When the candy is gone, each person at the funeral is reminded that life for this person is over. They believe life simply

dissolves. Citation: Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?* (Zondervan, 1997)

What are the consequences of hopelessness?

After the death of Jesus on the cross, those who followed Jesus were in shock, they experienced a level of grief they had never experienced before.

Jesus was dead and not one person who knew, followed, or worshipped Jesus displayed any signs of hope.

Can you comprehend unimaginable bleakness?

I've heard what unimaginable hope sounds like!— Criswell's Funeral Home in Ada, OK.

John 20:1-19 reveals five negative consequences of hopelessness:

Five negative consequences of Hopelessness:

1. False Assumptions vv.1-2

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
2 So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, **“They’ve taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him!”** CSB

Mary and the other women assumed the body of Jesus was stolen. It did not occur to them that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

2. Fear vv.10,19

10 **“Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.”**
CSB

19 “When it was evening on that first day of the week, **the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews.**” CSB

3. Despair v.11

“But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb.” CSB

4. Confusion vv.13-15

They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “Because they’ve taken away my Lord,” she told them, “and I don’t know where they’ve put him.”
14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. 15 “Woman,” Jesus said to her, “why are you crying? Who is it that you’re seeking?” Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and I will take him away.” CSB

5. Frustration v.15

“Woman,” Jesus said to her, “why are you crying? Who is it that you’re seeking?” Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, **“Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and I will take him away.”** CSB

What are the results of Hopelessness in real life?

Years ago there was a small town that had been selected to be the site of a hydroelectric plant. The plan was to build a dam across the river which would result in the submerging of the small town. The announcement of the plan was made with plenty of time to give all the residents of the small town the opportunity to get their affairs in order and relocate.

In the following months, something strange took place in the small town. A sense of hopelessness began to settle in the hearts of people. As a result, house upkeep stopped. Community improvement ceased. Infrastructure, basic lawn care and tidiness in the small town all came to an end. The small town looked abandoned long before any of the residents had moved

away. One resident explained the phenomenon of hopelessness in these terms: **“Where there is no hope for the future, there is no power in the present.”** Citation: H.B. Charles, “Hope to Face Any Situation,” Dallas Theological Seminary, 2024 Spiritual Life Conference (1-24-24)

Life without faith in Jesus does not have sustained Hope, Joy, Peace or fulfillment.

Three Principles We Learn From the Resurrection of Jesus:

1. The Resurrection of Jesus Gives Us Hope!

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord!”** And she told them what He had said to her. CSB

Christian Hope in this life and beyond is founded upon the confident trust that Jesus was raised from the dead. Hope is not wishful thinking or optimism; **Hope is a settled expectation that God will be faithful—as a result our future is secure even when it seems all hope is lost.**

Hope in this life and beyond is founded upon the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead!

We have hope because:

The Price of Sin has been paid

Hebrews 7:22-28 So Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant. ²³ Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office. ²⁴ But because He remains forever, He holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to intercede for them.** ²⁶ For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. **He did this once for**

all when He offered Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever. CSB

The blood of bulls and goats atoned for sin temporarily. However, the death of Jesus on the cross atoned for sin once and for all. When the sacrifice of Jesus was completed when Jesus declared, in **John 19:30** “**It is finished.**”

Hebrews 10:12 says, “But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.” CSB

We have hope because:

There is Life After Death

John 12:24-25 “ Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. ²⁵ The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” CSB

1 Corinthians 15:16-22 “For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone. ²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” CSB

We have hope because:

The Promises of God are true

Every great and precious promise declared in the Word of God hinges on the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Some 700 years before the death and resurrection of Jesus Isaiah the Old Testament prophet said this:

Isaiah 43:1-3 “Now this is what the LORD says—the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who formed you, Israel—“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and the rivers will not overwhelm you, When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched and the flame will not burn you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, and your Savior.” CSB

Pastor, professor and author Vic Pentz shared this story about keeping promises: “About a year and a half ago, I bought a new navy blazer at Nordstrom. It was one of those cases you may have gone through where you buy an item of clothing and the more you wear it, the more you realize you don't like it. My blazer wasn't the right color, and to make matters worse, it attracted lint like it was going out of style. After wearing it pretty regularly for six months or so, I stuck it in my closet and didn't wear it for a long time.

Tucked away in the back of my mind all the while was that famous Nordstrom unconditional-return policy. I thought, I've had this thing for a year and a half. I've worn it lots of times, and there's just no way they're going to take it back. About two weeks ago I decided I had nothing to lose. I pulled the blazer out, threw a lot of lint on it to make it look bad, and took it down to Nordstrom's men's department. I walked in, and immediately I felt nervous. I felt like I was about to pull a scam of some sort, but I played it straight. I walked right up to the first salesman I saw and gave this little prepared speech. I said, "I am about to put your famous unconditional-return policy to its ultimate test. I have here a blazer. I've worn it lots. I've had it for a year and a half. I don't like it. It's the wrong color, and it attracts lint like it's going out of style. But I want to return this blazer for another blazer that I like." Then I stood there.

I couldn't believe it. This guy with a big handlebar mustache just looked at me and shook his head. He said, "For heaven's sake, what took you so long? Let's go find you a blazer." Ten minutes later I walked out with another blazer that was marked seventy-five dollars more than I paid for the one that I brought in. It was perfect for me. Didn't cost me a penny. God's promises are greater than Nordstrom's.

God makes all sorts of outlandish promises that we cannot bring ourselves to believe. Can we? When we get up enough courage or we're desperate enough, we finally take him at his word. He looks at us and he shakes his head. "For heaven's sake," he says, "what took you so long?" Citation: Vic Pentz, "A Twinge of Nostalgia," Preaching Today, Tape No. 88.

We have hope because:

There is Nothing to Fear

Three Principles We Learn From the Resurrection of Jesus:

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Gives Us Unspeakable Joy

Matthew 28:5-8 “The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here. For He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there.’ Listen, I have told you.” 8 **So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell His disciples the news.** CSB

The phrase translated “**great Joy**” comes from the Greek words “**Megas**” and “**Cara.**”

Megas means exceeding, abundant, great.

Joy means the experience of great happiness. The positive human condition of exceeding gladness.

Joy is the natural response of every person who has found hope in Jesus Christ.

What do you do when extreme joy falls all over you?

Every follower of Christ should exude a spirit of contagious joy!

Followers of Jesus Christ have Unspeakable Joy because:

God loves us

God Knows Our Name

God Hears Us When We Pray

God makes a way when there is no way

Our Best Days are Ahead of Us not Behind Us.

Joy is the natural reaction when we realize God is real and we matter to Him.

John Ortberg in his book titled “God Is Closer Than You Think” writes: “Sofia Cavaletti is a researcher who has pioneered the study of spirituality in young children. She finds that children often have an amazing perception that far surpasses what they've already been taught. Sofia tells the story of a three-year-old girl, raised in an atheistic family with no church contact at all, no Bible in the home and no prayer, asked her father, "Where did the world come from?" He answered her in strictly naturalistic, scientific terms. Then he added, "There are some people who say that all this comes from a very powerful being, and they call him God." At this, the little girl started dancing around the room with joy as she said, "I knew what you told me wasn't true—it's Him, it's Him!"

Similarly, the author Anne Lamott was raised by her dad to be a devout atheist—all the children in her family, when they were two or three years old had to agree to a contract to that effect. However, Anne started backsliding from atheism into faith at an early age. **"Even when I was a child I knew that when I said 'Hello,' someone heard me!"** Citation: John Ortberg, "God Is Closer than You Think," Dallas Willard Center (accessed 4-28-17)

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead leads us:

To Live with Joy

Proverbs 17:22 “A joyful heart is good medicine . . .”

Psalm 47:1-2 “Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a jubilant cry. 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awe-inspiring, a great King over the whole earth.” CSB

There are enough mean, and difficult people in the world already . . . Live with Joy!

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead leads us:

To Worship with Joy

Psalm 95:1-3 “Come, let’s shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let’s enter his presence with thanksgiving; let’s shout triumphantly to him in song. 3 For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.” CSB

Personal worship or Corporate worship— we should worship with a spirit of joy!

To Sing with Joy

I’ve written my own worship song!

To Serve with Joy

Romans 12:9-12 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. 10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. 11 Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.” CSB

Three Principles We Learn From the Resurrection of Jesus:

3. The Resurrection of Jesus Calls Us to live with Purpose

Matthew 28:18-20 “Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” CSB

The word translated “**authority**” comes from the Greek word “**Exousia**” meaning absolute power and might over heaven and earth, life and death, sin and forgiveness. Because Jesus has all authority He is LORD, Master, King, Ruler and Judge.

C.S. Lewis describe the authority of Jesus this way: “When the author walks onto the stage, the play is over. God is going to invade, all right; but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else comes crashing in? This time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. That will not be the time for choosing; It will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realized it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side.”

Every follower of Christ is called to Demonstrate the Love and Share the Good News of Jesus— Everyday, Everywhere, with Everyone.