

Easter Sunday :He is not here He is risen from the Dead
Play Video :Jesus id the Resurrection and the Life

Read The Resurrection Story Luke 24:1-12

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

⁵The 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, ⁷that 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."

SLIDE 2 ⁸Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. ¹²However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

1) They didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. (Luke 24:3 NLT)

Thus is the good news of Easter and for our Christian Faith
 The cross is empty
 The tomb is empty
 Our preaching isn't empty
 Our faith is not empty
 The body of Christ, the church, is not empty

The number of Christians around the world has nearly quadrupled in the last 100 years, from about 600 million in 1910 to more than 2,2 billion in 2010.

Worth celebrating . Right ?

However the population in 1910 was only 2b compared to 7 b now

Have you found the body of Christ?
 We have to find the body of Christ THE FAMILY OF God

Our mandate must Be to help others, our family our friends an our work colleagues find the body of Christ .

You cant tell Jesus you love him but act indifferently to his Church which is his body .On the contrary you must love his body and do everything in your power to find his body and your place in it

2)They stood there puzzled

As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. (Luke 24:4 NLT)

Does your faith in God puzzle you? Do you know when your faith puzzles you?

Your faith will puzzle if you try to work everything in your head .
Jesus challenged his disciples not to reason out everything but to have faith

The bible calls on us to walk by faith not by sight
My own Experience tells me that god will not show you everything but step by step ,
day by day He will show you something

We have gods holy spirit

You cannot let your faith in God confuse you or puzzle you .On the contrary you
have to believe in what the Bible tells you .If you don't stand for something you
will fall for everything

SLIDE 3 1Cor 2:9-12

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him

¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. ¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

3) 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? (Luke 24:5 NLT)

Does your faith terrify you?

A pastor said to his congregation member that he wanted to enlist the man into the Lords army

The man responded I am already in the Lords Army ...
How come I only see you in church at Easter and Christmas
That's because **I am in the secret service**

Wearing your heart on your sleeve
Openly displaying your emotions
Openly displaying your faith

You cannot be a scared and terrified Christian. On the contrary God has not given you a spirit of fear but of power ,love and sound mind

STORY : Let me share with you **an incident** happened to me once
Ps Greg at Toscani restaurant

SLIDE 4: Romans 1:16¹⁶ For we are not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

4) But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. (Luke 24:11 NLT)

Many Christians are not sure of some of the bible stories
Some consider the stories of creation and god as nonsense and they don't believe

You have to clearly define what you believe

You cannot see some parts of the Bible as nonsense .On the contrary you have to believe that all Scripture has been inspired by God

This church has on it's web site our beliefs

What you believe shapes you -it affects the way you respond, or behave

Jesus had a clear understanding on truths that were important to him and most of the things are in the Bible today

Jesus said that that we must be cold or hot ,not lukewarm
We cannot sit on the fence because if its a wire fence ,its painful
(My experience of Scaling wire fences)

5) However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened. (Luke 24:12 NLT)

Someone once told me that there are 3 categories of people

- A) people who wait for things to happen
- B) people who make things happen
- C) people who wonder what happened

You know the saying desperate times calls for desperate measures
I believe the church is living in desperate times today and god wants to anoint you and baptise you with the holy spirit and power

I see a lot if Christians that don't want to make things happen, but will wait for things to happen, and when things happen are wondering what happened

You cannot be a spectator in this faith walk or race and spend all your life wondering what is going to happen next .On the contrary you have to get in to the game . You have to allow gods power to work through you so that you can make things happen for Him and make a real difference in the world

SLIDE 5 Acts 10:38

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

So why is all that I told you so important : Because of this statement

"Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead"

Hear again thus declaration my fellow Christian : he isn't here .he s risen from the dead

Easter ,ascension ,Christmas , baptism , the holy communion reading bible, praying attending church are not merely rituals

They are real pillars of our faith

I do it because it confirms that Jesus is alive and he lives in me

He did die but he is risen from the dead and is alive .

He now sits in heaven, presiding over the affairs off the universe

He is the lord of Lords and king of Kings

He is the soon coming King and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

YOU : So what does all the resurrection mean to YOU ?

SLIDE 6

- It validates our faith Corintinthians 15 :14:And **if Christ is not risen**, then our preaching **is** empty and your faith **is** also empty.
- It validates Jesus' claim that He is "**the way the truth and the life.**" (**John 14:6**)
- It gives us a hope for the future. Jesus said, "**Because I live, you will live also.**" (**John 14:9**)
- It offers spiritual life *right now*. "**By the acceptance of this good news you are saved.**" (**1 Cor. 15:2**) "**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**" (**John 3:16-19**)

CHALLENGE : What matters, is not only what happened nearly 2,000 years ago, but also its implications for *today*.

The good news is that those who are in Christ can expect their own resurrection from the dead and life with God for eternity.

But so what? So what if the resurrection happened.

Many in our world fail to see its relevance or importance. To atheist **Richard Dawkins** the message of the resurrection is petty, trivial and earthbound, he said it was so 'unworthy of the universe.'

But the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest message our world has to hear.

It's a message of hope and life. It's a message which says that death is not the end. Jesus' resurrection begins a new age.

An age of eternal life. An age where there will be no more tears, or mourning or pain. Do you like the sound of that?

I went to a **funeral last month**. Funerals are always sad. They're sad because they say that death has won. No matter how much, or how little, you achieve in this life, at a funeral death wins.

. And after the funeral, what? The legacy of our lives will steadily pass away into oblivion. In 250 years no-one is likely to remember you. Your Facebook account would have been deleted, all your blog posts removed, all your possessions sold or rotten away. Death and meaningless would have won.

But at the funeral I attended there was hope. The message from this funeral was that death wasn't the end.

Death had been swallowed up in the victory of Jesus' resurrection. There was hope, there was life. 'Where O death is your victory, where O death is your sting?

We have victory through Jesus Christ and his resurrection.

The message of Jesus is a message of hope of love and of life. It's a message that says that death is not the end and it's a message which can stand up to intellectual scrutiny.

If the resurrection didn't happen, you can ignore Jesus.

But, if the resurrection did happen, you can't ignore Jesus.

SALVATION PRAYER.

Jesus came to give you a life of abundance
He came to forgive all your sins so you don't have to live with guilt and shame
He wants to now fill your life with love, joy, peace & goodness and much more
He wants to give you the opportunity to live forever

But there is one thing you have to understand is that sin, will destroy your life .You cannot play with sin, neither can you get rid of your sins on your own .You must **repent** of your sins

All of us have sinned and fallen short of Gods expectation and there is only one person who can save us and make us right again. His name is Jesus and you can ask him right now to come in and be the Lord in your life

If you invite him into your life everything in your life turns from death to life, sin to salvation, hopelessness into everlasting joy
I can guarantee that if you do, your life will be so more meaningful and filled with purpose and a sense of destiny!

Would you like to ask him into your life right now?

PRAY PRAYER FOR THE SICK

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