

Day 8

ARISE

Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23

On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, we reach the culmination of Holy Week. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event, the crux, you might say, of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all Christian doctrine hinges on the truth of this account.

Early Sunday morning several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced: "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." (Matthew 28:5-6, NLT)

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer. The eyewitness accounts in the Gospels provide what Christians believe to be undeniable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ did indeed happen. Two millennia after his death, followers of Christ still flock to Jerusalem to see the empty tomb.

Questions

Do you see yourself in Christ?

Do you feel resurrected?

What's the purpose of this day?

Changing Your Mind

Three interesting reflections on Resurrection Sunday – Women find Jesus first – When they find him, they mistake him for a gardener – Jesus eats. Why is Jesus eating important? "For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:16-18). We see Jesus saying this at the Passover Meal in passion week. And the first thing he does with his disciples is eat breakfast. His kingdom has come, and it is here. Breakfast is truly the most important meal of the day :-)

Moving Forward

The great news about this day is not just that Jesus is resurrected. But that we are included in His resurrection. You are resurrected. When He rose, we rose. Let's finish this week with a powerful statement that helps us See God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and helps us to Make a Difference: "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5) Think about it – This week we walked with Jesus through 8 days of Passion. He was successful in reconciling the world to Himself. What has he left us with?

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 (Corinthians 5:14-21)

We have the ministry of Reconciliation. And we have been given the indwelling presence of God to co-labour in His restorative work on earth. Let's do it together. Let's love, let's make things right, let's reflect the Father revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

When we realise it is finished we have begun

