

J.J.

I AM THE RESURRECTION

John 11:17-27

HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!!!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Announcements :

We will also have the dedication of Eli – the son of Des after the sermon
We will have the breaking of the bread next week.

The resurrection is a historical fact! The reason we are celebrating the Lord's Day is because He has risen on a Sunday.

Quote : This is from Sir Lionel Luckhoo, identified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most successful attorney in the world concluded after an exhaustive analysis about the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ : "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

Today, let's talk about our Lord Jesus Christ!

John 11: 17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

INTRODUCTION :

Two weeks ago, three people whom I know passed away.

I'm pretty sure, a lot of you have heard a friend or a relative passed away recently.

Some of you might have experienced losing a loved one yourself.

Death has always surrounded us.

The pandemic has just made us aware of its real and imminent presence.

I remember in the past few years, there was a big push on prolonging your life. Nothing wrong with that, but the truth is, no one is control to when they will die.

Listen carefully : We maybe in control of our health but we are never in control of our death.

Ecclesiastes 8:8 None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death.

Illustration : A high school schoolmate of mine, I just saw her posting in Instagram and Facebook. Her last post was February 28 and in March 25, she was gone from this world.

This is the reason the message of the resurrection is very timely right now to those of us who are listening.

Quick background :

- Jesus was on his way to Lazarus who was already “dead” for four days. He knew Lazarus was sick.
- Lazarus was the brother of Martha and Mary and our Lord was very close to these siblings.
- Martha learned that Jesus is coming went to meet Jesus while Mary stayed at home.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him

- We really saw Martha here as a woman of action.

Now here is where it becomes interesting.

21 Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

We don't really know the motive of Martha saying this to Jesus.

Was this like blaming him? Maybe. It's very typical of her if you remember the story when she was serving while Mary was sitting listening to Jesus... and she asked Jesus to do that.

Luke 10: 40 She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Or was this like some sort of regret... “Lord I know if you were here earlier...”

But whatever it was, we'll have to take her words “prima facie” (at face value) Martha knows what Jesus can do. She have heard the stories and she might have seen it with her own eyes the healings – making the blind see, deaf hear, the lame walk and etc.

She believed in what Jesus can do because in verse 22, she says...

22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

But somehow, she falls short again in believing what Jesus can do...look at the conversation.

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Martha's theology is correct.

The Jews believed there will be a resurrection of bodies one of these days.

*Job 19: 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

Martha is correct, that one of these days, there will be a resurrection of the body.

You can read that further in 1 Corinthians 15.

Yes, we will die and our flesh will be eaten by worms, our skin destroyed, we will become dust but one of these days, when Jesus comes back, this body that was gone... will be raised up into glorified physical bodies.

1 Corinthians 15 : 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

I encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 15 to understand this fully by God's grace.

By the way, one of these days, everyone will be raised up... but to what destination?

The problem is when you are raised up is it going to be with the Lord or is it going to be in eternal damnation. There are only 2 places that man would go, either in the presence of God or in hell.

Daniel 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

The question is where will you go?

Some of you might say, I'll be in heaven? Or some of you might say, nobody knows where I go as if it's a game of chance. **Will you really hang on to where you will be in eternity to chance?**

So you might ask Pastor, how can I make sure I will be with Jesus? You have to listen more.

Now here is the resurrection Sunday message which you need to hear.

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

That word "*I am*" (*tetragrammaton*) which is the name of God has been used by John seven times...this is the 5th time our Lord used it to describe Himself. Jesus is saying "I am God."

Exodus 3: 13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

What our Lord is saying to Martha and now to us is this...

I am life... without me there is no life...and even if someone dies, since I am the source of life... **I can give their life back... more on that later.**

That's why our Lord said to her.... *"I am the resurrection and the life."*

Our Lord repeated that in

John 14:6 Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Now here's the important part.

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

We will have to break this down into two...

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

What our Lord is saying is this.

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER OF JESUS CHRIST, EVEN THOUGH YOU DIE, YOU ARE STILL ALIVE.

Illustration : In May last year, one of the members of DCF, Tatay Jess, passed away due to Covid. We know that Tatay Jess is a truly believer of Jesus Christ. We know that Tatay Jess believes that it is only through Jesus Christ that we can go to heaven... so these words of Jesus Christ can apply to Tatay Jess.

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

“Jess who believes in Me, though he died, he lives.”

In short, Tatay Jess is alive today why because while he was here... he believed in Jesus Christ.

We can apply this to Raymond and Mommy Nellie of Jannette because they are believers of Jesus Christ.

“Raymond who believes in Me, though he died, he lives.”

“Mommy Nellie who believes in Me, though she died, she lives.”

Now, the key word is “believe”... He was a believer of Jesus Christ! I’ll get back to that later.

Now let’s go to the second part and this involves you right now who are still alive.

That’s why our Lord said...

26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

And then we see that word “believe”...again.

26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Etymology : never, it’s three phrases in Greek, “ou me eis aion” ou me – (certainly not, never eis (towards...ever) - aion (forever, for eternity).... Literally it means... never ever forever...

So we can translate this...

26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

If you are alive right now and you believe in Jesus Christ, you shall never ever die forever.

To make it closer to home...let’s change the names.

“Noel who believes in Me shall never ever die forever.”

“Met who believes in Me shall never ever die forever.”

“Nedy who believes in Me shall never ever die forever.”

Quote : "One day you will hear that D. L. Moody of Northfield, Massachusetts, is dead. Don't you believe it! In that day I will be more alive than I have ever been before." (D.L. Moody, preacher and evangelist)

Illustration : I love how a father explained to his daughter what happens to a believer when they die. He said, "Remember the times that you fell asleep in the couch while watching TV and then when you woke up, you are now in your room." You didn't know what happened during that time but I carried you.

It's the same when we die, we close our eyes and when we open our eyes again, we are now with Jesus."

Now here's the big question : I showed you earlier the key word is "believe in Me."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

The key word is believe in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Now what happens if you do not believe?

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

So you might ask, Pastor, how do I believe?

Romans 10: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."

You need to repent of your sin and decide from now on follow Christ (Jesus is Lord)

You need to believe that God raised Him from the dead...

the question is why did He die? In short, why was there Good Friday?

TO PAY FOR OUR SIN AGAINST GOD.. AND GOD RAISING HIM UP FROM THE DEAD IS SAYING...**SIN HAS BEEN PAID.**

So you know why there's a Good Friday, then why is there an Easter Sunday? Why are we celebrating today? It's God being satisfied to what our Lord has done on the cross as payment for our sin.

Quote : The resurrection is our Father's Amen to our Lord's "It is finished".

That's why...

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

You need to believe that Jesus already paid for your sin on the cross and that's the only way and you need to profess it with your mouth.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."

Lead into prayer.

DEDICATION OF ELI!

S.G.D.