

RESURRECTION SUNDAY 2020
Minnesota Valley Church; Pastor Tom Olson; April 12, 2020

GREETING: Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

HYMN WITH TRUMPET ACCOMPANIMENT: #104 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

PRAYER & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *"He is not here..." Luke 24:6 We will see grandma and grandpa again someday!*

HYMN FROM ACCOMPANIMENT TAPE #117 by Robert Lowry

Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord!

Chorus:
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!

Death cannot keep its prey,
Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord!

GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18

John 20:1-18 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am

returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

MESSAGE: THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS, John 20:1-18, Pastor Tom Olson, 4/12/20

I have had a lot of amazing talks in person, on the phone and on line with so many people these past few days. People are asking real and important questions. Bible sales have skyrocketed as people are searching for answers. What are your questions you are struggling with? Let's see if we can't get some answers.

I. THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS HAVE A QUESTION:

Where is Jesus body? *John 20:2 "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"*

Jesus repeatedly told his disciples that he would be put to death and rise on the third day. They simply didn't believe him. Can you blame them? Not really. But you would think that raising Lazarus from the dead a few days earlier would encourage them to believe. A propensity toward sin and unbelief is definitely our default setting...every one of us. Faith is a gift of God and not something natural. Without faith there is a sort of darkness and negativity that clouds our lives. But when faith comes everything looks different...we no longer assume the worst...we assume the best. We all, even after becoming saved, still have a tendency toward unbelief that we have to fight with the Word of God every day.

How are you responding to our current worldwide crisis? Are you looking for evidence of death or life? Is your focus on the small percentage of people dying or the vast majority that are well and improving? Every morning we need to expect that the same Jesus who promised to rise from the dead and did to be faithful to all his promises. Let's purpose to not focus on the problems but on the opportunities that God gives us every day.

1 Corinthians 6:14 "And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."

1 Corinthians 15:4 "He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."

II. THE ANGELS ASKED A QUESTION

John 20:13 "Woman, why are you crying?"

When we lose loved ones we often cry. We cry, not for them, but for ourselves. Jesus had been so good to Mary Magdalene. She was immoral and a cultural reject when Jesus found her. She also was demon possessed. Jesus cast seven demons out of her. You can understand why she was crying in light of what Jesus meant to her. The angel gets to the root of the issue with the question. "Why are you crying?" That is a good question for all of us.

- Why are you crying because you lost your loved one? ...are they not in a better place?
- Why are you crying because you lost your job? ...doesn't God have a better one for you?
- Why are you crying because your spouse or child has shortcomings? ...don't you have faults too that people have to be patient with?
- Why are you crying because you don't have some material wealth? ...is not the wealth of heaven yours forever and ever.
- Why are you crying... ...hasn't God promised to work all things together for good for those who love Him? ...has he not promised that nothing can separate us from his love?

Why am I crying? This is a question we all must face up to an answer honestly before we can build our lives of solid resurrection truth.

1 Peter 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

III. JESUS “ANSWERS” THE QUESTION

John 20:16 "Mary."

When people have questions, one of our greatest mistakes is that we try to answer them! The more words we say, the less they are helped (most of us men eventually learn that from our tense discussions with our wives—don't fix the problem, just listen and sympathize). All the risen Savior did was say her name and the questions were erased...instantly. One of the most powerful words in the world to touch a life is THE NAME of the person we are talking to. Touch their shoulder and say their name affectionately and a watch the mountain of stress disappear. Mary knew the voice of Jesus and Jesus knew her name. Jesus knows your name too. The Bible says that “*our names are engraved on His hands,*” *Isaiah 49:16*.

God called “Adam” by name after he sinned. God called “Moses” by name from the burning bush. God called “Samuel” by name in the hours of the night. God called “Mary” & “Joseph” by name through the angel. God is intimately acquainted with us and loves us deeply. HE KNOWS OUR NAME!

We need to learn to put our names into Bible verses.

- *John 3:16* “For God so loved _____
- *1 John 1:9* “If _____ confesses his sin, God is faithful to forgive
- *Philippians 4:19* “My God shall supply all _____ needs
- *John 14:3* “I go and prepare a place for _____
- *Hebrews 13:5* “I will never leave _____ or forsake _____

When Jesus called Mary by name after his resurrection, He is calling all of us by name. He is saying to us that we can be immoral and demon possessed, and he still wants to write our name in the Lamb's book of Life. God has a name too. We primarily use the Name, Jesus, God in human flesh.

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 “Whoever calls upon the NAME of the Lord shall be saved.” You may need to be saved from sin and hell. You may need to be saved from fear. You may need to be saved from danger. You may need to be saved from temptation or addiction. You may need to be saved from anger. Call upon THE NAME of the one who calls you BY NAME, and you will be saved. “Jesus save me,” is a prayer God loves to answer.

The old song says it so well that... “I serve a risen Savior, He is in the world today, He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today...He walks with me, He talks with me along life's narrow way...you ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.”

Romans 6:8-11 “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 1:4 “*And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit.*”

Romans 8:34 “*Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*”

Isaiah 25:8 “*He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.*” Will you pray with me?...

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: “Because He Lives”

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain day, because He lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

BENEDICTION: *Hebrews 13:20&25* **May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. 25 Grace be with you all. Amen.**