

## How do You Know? Making it Real with the Resurrection!

### Matthew 27:50-54 + 28:1-6a

Matt 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.  
 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.  
 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Matt 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "**Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen**

Something radical happened in Jerusalem 2000 years ago...

Earthshaking - frightening - glorious - astounding - unprecedented - affect on that little city

Peter and the apostles were preaching that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, not His, He had none, and that He rose again on the third day.

They preached that Jesus had raised from the dead, because it gave validity to the claims Jesus made - that Jesus was the only unique Son of God - and the savior of the world.

After the resurrection of Jesus - thousands of people got saved - and when they shared the Gospel in the city that He was crucified, all they had to do was go to the tomb where He was laid, and see that no one was home. The grave was empty.

Everybody has to deal with the historical fact that the tomb was empty. A body has never been found, no record, no plausible alternative - because he is not dead, he is alive, and He ascended into Heaven.

Good News - euaggelion - Kings Coronated - Battles Won - Cities under siege saved

Many believed - because they saw the empty tomb - many even saw Jesus in His resurrection body.

Jesus - had conquered sin and death - He finished the work He came to do.

F.A.I.T.H - Forsaking All I Take Him

Jesus changed the World - John 14:6 - Jesus said ... , "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

We are evidence that the world was changed by the resurrection of Jesus - Here we are - if a body was found - if there were not eyewitnesses - then Jesus would be like every other self-proclaimed savior - forgotten about - mocked by the annals of history. But not our Jesus - He is set apart - He predicted and pulled off His own resurrection.

We wouldn't be here - there wouldn't be millions of believers in the world today

### **But what does it all mean?**

1. We can be **Happy** because we know our sins are forgiven - *How do you know?* **He is Risen**

2. We can be **Holy** because we know the power of sin is broken - *How do you know?* **He is Risen**

3. We can be **Hopeful** because we know the effects of sin will be undone - *How do you know?* **He is Risen**

1. We can be **Happy** because we know our sins are forgiven - *How do you know?* **He is Risen**

Therefore we can be confident in forgiveness of sins through faith in Him.

### Psalm 32:1-2 (NLT)

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

**Joy** - buoyancy

**Disobedience** - scripture declares we are all disobedient - to live for yourself is disobedience to your meaning and purpose in life

**Sin** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - declares the scriptures - sin = miss the mark - fall short - of the Glory of god - everything created - was given it's own glory - light, stars, seas, mountains, fields, trees, sea life, plant life, animals, angels - weight - purpose - meaning - all pointing to the Glory of God - The most glorious thing of all creation - human beings - made in the image of God - children of God - apple doesn't fall far from the tree - nature, character, and even some attributes of God - meant to be part of our human experience.

**Record cleared of guilt** - we all have a rap sheet - certificate of debt - everything we do as a result of falling short

What joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared

To live in complete honesty - is to acknowledge - disobedience, sin, guilt before the Lord, and ask for the forgiveness available to us through Christ Jesus. A forgiveness you can believe in, How do you know you are forgiven when you trust in Him for forgiveness? **He is Risen**

Jesus in John 5:24 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

NLT - "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Trust on Jesus - rejoice because - He took your place - judgement (wrath - righteous reckoning for sin) for sin is behind you - not before you - Only Jesus can save us from judgement.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10b (NLT)** ... Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

**Colossians 2:12-15 (NLT)** 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

So don't let anyone condemn you... Your righteousness is in Heaven - Your righteousness is Jesus - It is not your own - His righteousness was given to you as a gift - How righteous was Jesus - Death could not hold him down - you are your own biggest accuser

Do you ever say I can't forgive myself? That is a PC way of saying - I condemn myself - you are still holding something in higher regard than Jesus work and resurrection - acting like He is still dead - Romans 8 - There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

The debt was cancelled - all sin is forgiven - He has made you alive - *How do you know?* **He is Risen!**

The Accuser (Satan) - always accusing - always right - if Christ didn't pay for them all - I would stand guilty and condemned - BUT Christ has paid for them all - *How do you know?* **He is Risen**

**Psalm 32:1-2 (NLT)** Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

**We have True Happiness - Real Joy - never ending - never changing - never failing**

There are many challenges to our happiness— - sickness, tragedy, relational disasters - divorce, abuse, neglect, estrangement, betrayal- financial - job loss, lack of material things, dreams that never came true, places we'll never go - those things are not ultimate - none of them ever shook the earth. Only Christ in His resurrection from the dead. What is ultimate is the resurrection, that validates the forgiveness of all our sins, paid on the cross, by Jesus So we have a happiness - a joy - that transcends our circumstances - loss, tragedy, sickness, etc.

There are many offers of happiness— toys, power, relationships, money, influence, popularity - but they are not ultimate -

Finding true/ultimate happiness in **Jesus frees us to enjoy things more**

This ought to work a **revival of Joy** in our hearts - If Jesus is risen - we ought to be full of Joy - encourage yourself in the resurrection - when life throws challenges at you that want to take away your joy - speak the Gospel to yourself - don't listen to your heart - speak to your heart - speak the promises and truths of God's word to yourself - and when you hear in your heart - *How do you know?* you say - **He is Risen!**

Until you know Christ - you have never experienced true happiness - real joy - you carry your guilt - you know the results of your bad choices - you see all around you the reality of sin - both within and without

**But there is more good news in light of Christ's Resurrection from the dead:**

**Our today does not need to look the same as our past**

Do you have a past? I have a past!! You have a past - one that we want no one to know about.

2. **We can be holy** because Jesus has broken the power of sin - How do you know? He is Risen

In one sense (very real) we actually are holy (This is how God deals with us) - Proclaimed and recorded in Heaven - positionally Holy -

Colossians 1:13-14; 20-23a (NLT) For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins... and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. **As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.**

(Wonder of justification - we know we are not holy and blameless without fault - given a new record)

**But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.**

Don't get religious - don't drift away

We have a brand new identity + We have a brand new way to live (if in Christ)

We cannot go on living as though Christ is not alive (and as if we do not have new lives) + gives the devil too much credit

**Romans 6:4 (NLT) And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.**

We don't believe in cheap grace - we don't look at His suffering and resurrection - receive His forgiveness out of His love for us - and keep on living the same way. We have new life - new kind of existence in Christ.

**Romans 6:9-14 (NLT) Since we have been united with Him in his death, we will also be raised to life as He was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with Him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.**

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, **give yourselves completely to God**, for you were dead, **but now you have new life**. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. **Sin is no longer your master...**

Victory of sin is a reality for a Christian!! How do you know? He is Risen!

I'm not talking about pretending - that is hypocrisy - we can truly be transformed by the Power of The Holy Spirit - same power that rose Jesus from the dead.

We can live in a different way - a better way - our present doesn't have to be like our past.

Struggle is real - we all need more Holiness in our life - more Christ likeness in our life - not about pretending - it is about humbly trusting our savior - because He is Risen!

Jesus has broken the power of sin (identity and slavery) - be revived - preach to your heart - speak to your heart - until the word of God empowered by the Spirit of God - transforms you - don't stop doing this until you are called home to GLORY - Live for His Glory!

Tired - of bearing the burden of guilt - does your present experience witness to you that you can't change - you are in a rut - stuck the way you are - no hope for change - in your heart - does the future scare you - come to Jesus - He is Risen!

Not only can our today be different from our past—but also our future will be different from today

We can be **Hopeful** because we know the effects of sin will be undone - *How do you know?*  
**He is Risen**

We can be hopeful because Jesus will undo the effects of sin

We will not always struggle with sin  
 The world will not always struggle with sin and evil and their effects  
 There is coming a judgment  
 There is coming a renewal  
 There is a new day that will dawn (Cf. Matthew 28)

There will be a day when there will be no more - .....

Hope defined is the absolute expectation of coming Good - you know there is going to be a happier ending than you can imagine in your wildest dreams! **How do you know? He is Risen!**

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We are **Full of Hope** because Christ is coming again - Sin and death and destruction have been and will truly be shown to be defeated! (Christ's Return)

Isaiah 25:7-9 (NLT) God will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation!"

Jesus rose and is coming again. - Hope is sure expectation of coming again - How do you know? He is Risen

1 Peter 1:3-6 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance— an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad. **There is wonderful joy ahead**, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while.

Revival talk! - Live with Holy Hope - Expectation - Christ will redeem and restore all things some day.

Therefore we live differently - we don't mourn as those who have no hope - we are not in despair in the face of evil - a new day will DAWN - like a sunrise - the son will return.

This life is not meaningless - not a giant toilet flush - everything going down the drain.

Jesus is powerful enough to set all things right - How do you know? He is Risen.

Put your faith in Christ and don't miss out! Christian don't short change your life.

Isaiah 55:12-13 (NLT) You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow.

Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up. These events will bring great honor to the Lord's name; they will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.

1 Cor 15:57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What this means for the believer:

Are you walking worthy of the resurrection?

Happiness - Joy - Buoyancy that transcends your circumstance

Holiness - growing in Christ likeness

Hopeful - the world is not my home - Jesus is preparing for a new creation

What this means for the not-yet-Christian: What do you want for your present life.

Do you want your sins forgiven?

Do you want to be transformed in to what you were always meant to be?

Do you want an sure expectation of an everlasting life, in a new body made for eternity, and made for a new creation. Love unconditional and unending, Life beyond time, a place where there is no evil, not even in you. Come to Jesus.

Jesus in John 11:25-26 (NLT) I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this?

Yes I do - How do you Know? He is Risen!