

“Life After the Resurrection”

* Some thoughts about life after the Resurrection:

1. The disciples had given three (3) years of their life to Jesus!
2. They left careers, families, and reputations to be a part of Jesus’ ministry!
3. He had impressed them as the wisest teacher they had heard and demonstrated powers they could not explain.
4. Then.....He left them!!!!
5. Over time emotional wounds, confusion and frustration began to ease!
6. Then as they processed His message and life, the Holy Spirit began to lead them into the future!
7. Most “spiritual leaders” are memorialized and honored at their death. Not Jesus!!
8. In many ways I believe we find an “unresurrected Jesus” easier to follow. Easter makes Him dangerous!!
9. Now, I have to listen to all His claims about life and eternity!! I cannot pick and choose what sounds good to me!
10. The Resurrection means He is alive and acting like He is God!!

I. What does all of this story of Jesus mean? Not in theological terms, but in **life application!**

A. Frederick Buechner says, “can never nail Jesus down. Not even if the nails we use are real, and the thing we nail Him to is a cross! “

1. One person said, “Killing Jesus was like trying to destroy a dandelion by blowing on it!”
2. God’s idea is that “the seeds are to spread all over the world.”
3. Before His ascension Jesus said....

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

4. Jesus explains this “Kingdom way of life” in John 12:23-26:

John 12:23-26 (NIV)

23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

B. Jesus ends His three (3) years of ministry at Passover!

1. Jesus prays **this** just before His arrest while in the garden.

John 17:1-4 (NIV)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

2. He came from God and is God!! He has shown us the Father!

Now, He is once again picking up the **glory** He laid down!!!

3. He is preparing Himself and His disciples for His departure!

4. Angels didn't appear again!! Not at the crucifixion and not at the resurrection!!!! But they did at the **ascension!!!!!!!**

Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside

them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

II. The Ascension Changed Everything!!!

A. What could Jesus possibly mean by saying this in John 16:7?

John 16:7 (NIV)

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

1. I confidently believe that this conversation describes how God has designed the **Christian walk!!!!**

John 16:12-14 (NIV)

12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

2. At His ascension Jesus said that we would be given “POWER” from the Holy Spirit to live and spread the Gospel!!!
3. The Christian Faith is not simply my belief and acceptance gets me a better life in heaven!
4. **It is the empowerment to change your world!!!**

B. Notice what Jesus proclaimed at the beginning of His ministry:

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) (Quoted from Isaiah 61)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim **good news to the poor.**

He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners**
and **recovery of sight for the blind,**
to **set the oppressed free,**
to proclaim the **year of the Lord's favor.**"

1. Later, Jesus make an unusual statement: "Unless a kernel of wheat all in the ground and die, it abides alone....."
2. He then expounds on how you and I come forth from His harvest.
3. **Then,** you and I carry on His ministry description in Luke 4!!
4. Who has time and energy for church splits and relational strife??!!
5. A world is in need of a Savior and WE are His only expression on the earth!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

C. We often forget.....

1. My prayer and devotion matter to God!
2. I am helping my neighbor and others find their eternal destination!
Not to mention discover the answer to the needs of life now!
3. The choices I make today either bring delight or sorrow to the Creator of the universe!!!!!!

III. We are generally **asking the wrong questions in life!!**

A. As I have traveled the world in ministry, I have often seen the worst of human nature and condition:

1. Starvation in northern Kenya where drought has brought devastation to millions!
2. Young girls standing in shop windows in Amsterdam selling their bodies as you would cloths!
3. 4 and 5-year-old children lying in the streets of Central America high from sniffing glue and paint!
4. Card board homes in the shanty towns of South Africa as children sailed their toy boats in streams of water that is actually flowing sewage in the streets!

B. This is generally the question we ask: **How could a loving God allow this?**

1. Wait a minute, when Jesus left, He seemed to say, **“I died and left you in charge!”**
2. We have been given the **assignments and instructions!!** We have also been **empowered** with the ability!!
3. So the actual question to be asked is.....

Why do we allow this??????

4. There is more to come.....