

The Jesus We Thought We Knew
Sunday, April 1, 2018

IX. The Morning That Changed Everything!!

A. There is a word that is a part of our language that the Resurrection changed, redefined, and perhaps completely did away with!

1. **Irreversible:** not able to be undone or altered.
2. Rollo May, a famous therapist, in his book “My Quest for Beauty” writes.....
3. “I was seized by a moment of spiritual reality: What would it mean to the world if He had truly risen?”
4. The first Christians staked everything on the resurrection!
So much so that in I Corinthians 15:12-18 Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 15:12-18 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

B. The reality of the early Church and followers of Jesus.

1. The Gospels portray the followers of Christ as the ones **most leery** about the rumors of the Resurrection!
2. There was “Doubting Thomas”, some of the reports of the women who visited the tomb as “nonsense”, and even after Jesus appeared to them Matthew says, “some doubted”.

Luke 24:9-11 (NIV)

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. **10** It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

3. Matthew says, “they were afraid, yet filled with joy”.
4. Mark says, “they were trembling and bewildered”.

C. The Gospels do not represent the Resurrection of Jesus as “**convincing apologetics**” but rather as “**shocking and unexpected**”.

John 20:1-2 (NIV)

20 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!”

1. Wouldn’t you think her first response would be, “I told you, He is truly risen from the dead!”
2. They slowly began to realize that Jesus had “**reversed the irreversible**”!
3. Notice that the guards were shaken to the core that morning and then denied it had happened by the afternoon!!

Matthew 28:1-4 (NIV)

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. **2** There was a

violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, **13** telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’

4. They too believed the events of the last few days were **“irreversible!”**
5. We can only read this story from **this side of Easter!** We forget how hard to believe this resurrection was!

D. Author Frederick Buechner says this about the Resurrection:

“There were no angels in the sky singing choruses, no visitors from far away bringing gifts! Jesus showed up in the ordinary circumstances over the next few weeks: a private dinner, He joined two men walking down the road, He comforted a woman weeping in the garden and joined some fishermen hard at work!”

1. A book that has made a great impact on me recently is called, **“God of the Mundane.”**
2. We are constantly looking for the spectacular! God is often the loudest and most spectacular in the normal, everyday times of life! This can be seen in the life of Elijah!!

1 Kings 19:11-13 (NIV)

11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12** After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the

fire came a gentle whisper. **13** When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

3. These ordinary circumstances around the Resurrection last for six (6) weeks!
4. No spectacular appearances! Just “flesh and bone” sightings of Jesus in the “**everydayness**” of life!!!

X. Why didn't Jesus go “**Full On Sensational**” after the resurrection and prove Himself as the Son of God?

A. He could have!! After all, He had His resurrection body and they still bore the scars of His death!!

1. There are approximately a dozen appearance of Jesus recorded after the resurrection.
2. They are all similar for the most part:
 - a) He visited small groups of people
 - b) Mostly in remote places
 - c) Usually inside behind closed doors
 - d) He always built the faith of His followers
 - e) There is no record of Him appearing to unbelievers

B. Why not appear to Pilate? The Sanhedrin? Wouldn't that confirm His deity.....not to mention, put them in their place?

1. Maybe His words to Thomas reveal the reason for this!

John 20:29 (NIV)

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

2. In her book “The Mind of the Maker”, Dorothy Sayer writes:
“God did not abolish the fact of evil: He transformed it. He did not stop the crucifixion: He rose from the dead.”

3. All of this should reveal the character and nature of God!!

C. **Easter and The Resurrection** remind us that yes.....

THINGS ARE REVERSIBLE !!!!!!!

1. I have **hope beyond my circumstances!**
2. The tears we shed.....
3. The wounds of life.....
4. The emotional pain.....
5. The heart ache.....
6. They are like the scars of Jesus:

**Reminders that the word “irreversible” is only that.....
a word!!!**

7. Jesus can make our circumstances and situations **reversible!**

Ephesians 3:16-20 (NIV)

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. **20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

