



Empowering People to Change the World

Resurrection: The Victory of the King

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Welcome to all of you who are our special guests this morning. We are excited to host all of you on this special day.

- We are joining with 2.6 billion faithful all over the world who are celebrating Easter, Resurrection Day.
- That is 30% of the world's population, making Christianity by far the largest spiritual movement on the globe!

There is a story of a young girl who was on a journey to find what the most powerful was.

- She thought: "Iron must be the most powerful thing in the universe!" So, she goes up to Iron and asks Iron, "Are you the most powerful?" Iron says, "No, you put me in fire, and I melt."
- So, the girl goes over to Fire and asks, "Are you the most powerful?" and Fire says, "No, you put water on me, I'm done."
- The girl goes over to Water and asks, "Are you the most powerful?" Water says, "No, if you leave me out in the sun too long, I evaporate, and I'm done."
- The girl thinks, "Surely the blazing hot Sun is the most powerful!" So, she says to the Sun, "Surely Sun, you are the most powerful?" and the Sun says, "No, you see that little cloud over there? When it comes over and covers me, I'm done."
- So, the girl looks at the Cloud and says, "Surely Cloud, you are the most powerful. You can cover up the sun!" "No, just a little bit of wind pushes me away."
- So, she goes to the Wind and says, "Surely you are the most powerful," "No, said the Wind. I cannot move that mountain!"

- So, the girl goes over to the Mountain and says, “Mighty Mountain, surely you are the most powerful thing in the whole world.” The Mountain says, “I may look unmovable now, but when Man comes and chisels me away, I’m broken down.”
- So, the girl goes to Man and says, “Surely you are the most powerful.” Man says, “No, Death comes to us all.”
- The girl is lonely and confused, and she finds Death: “Surely death, you are the most powerful of all.” And Death says, “I have taken out kings, queens, and peasants. I’ve taken out rich and poor. But there was one:
 - They crucified Him; they killed Him,
 - The people were cheering.
 - I was so excited. I took His body.
 - I was ruling for 3 days. I was celebrating.
 - But then...He got up...and He rose up.
 - He took away my power.
 - He took away my keys.
 - He made me bow to Him.
 - And I had no power over Him!
- And the girl said, “What’s His name?” “His name is Jesus Christ. He is the most powerful of them all.”

How is Jesus the Most Powerful?

Stand with me. Let’s look at 1 Corinthians 15 together.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day...But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive...Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies

under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For “He has put all things under His feet...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'”

***“O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?”***

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15)

Let us pray. You can be seated.

- Why did Jesus die on a cross on Good Friday?
- Why did Jesus rise up on the third day of Easter?
- Our passage says that Jesus’s death and resurrection are related to sin.

Our passage says, “Christ died for our sins...and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day.”

Our passage says, “*The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- Jesus lived a perfect life for our sins.
- Because of our sins, Jesus rose from the dead to take the sting out of death
- Jesus gives us victory over our sin! Now today.

But what is sin?

Sin is the most misunderstood word. We often associate sin with outward behavior like murder, addictions, or stealing something. But the biblical word for sin is more about inward attitudes than outward actions.

You see, sin is a heart problem more than a moral dilemma. Christianity is a religion of the heart.

Let me explain,

- Sin is an ancient term used in Archery Contests. The archer would release his arrow, and a judge would shout out “Sin 1, Sin 2, Sin 3” to indicate the proximity of the arrow to the bullseye
- In other words, sin is “missing the mark.” Missing perfection.
- Jesus spoke of sin as more of an attitude of the heart than even outward actions, but the Jews didn’t believe Him, so he had to explain it.
- In the famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made this clear:

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” (Matthew 5:21-22, Sermon on the Mount)

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28, Sermon on the Mount)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45, Sermon on the Mount)

Jesus is challenging Religion. You see, religion is all about self-effort and outward actions. Religion is about Man pursuing God through outward Work, legalisms, Law, and human effort:

- For Judaism, it is in following the Torah to find peace with Yahweh.
- For Islam, it is finding Allah through the 5 Pillars.
- For Hinduism, it is Moksha, through the paths of yoga.

- For Buddhism, it is finding Nirvana through the 5-fold Path.
- For many in the West, their religion is Secular Humanism. The goal of secular humanism is happiness through science, ethical living, and social justice.

But Jesus, in his famous Sermon on the Mount, turns all of this on its head and says that real peace, real joy, real happiness comes from the state of one's heart.

The Battle of the Heart is the Battle of our Life.

- We've all sinned in our hearts; we've all struggled with inward pain and inward frustrations, and not just what we've said in our hearts but also what's been done to us
 - We know heart trauma is real—it deeply affects our heart and body.
 - We are impacted by life's greatest struggles where we feel defeated and a failure.
 - As a result, all of us, at times, battle with anger, depression, and anxiety.
 - This life, under the power of Satan and demons, brings betrayal, gossip, and shame.
 - This is SIN.
- The death and darkness of this life whispers to us that there is no purpose; just give up.

We live at the base of the Rocky Mountains in the midst of rainstorms, snowstorms, and hailstorms.

In the same way, we live in a world of sin, darkness, depression, and anxiety,

**Mother Teresa once said, of the state of the West,
“The greatest disease in the West is not tuberculosis or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for... America is the loneliest nation in the world.”**

But we awake each morning to Pikes Peak. To the stunning beauty of the Rocky Mountains!

- In the midst of the hail and snowstorms, there are the snowcapped Rocky Mountains
- In the midst of sin and the debris of betrayal, anger, and sin, there is beauty.
- There is beauty! There is the beauty in our hearts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

What’s the point? The point of Easter is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can live in us!

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, says it well,

“...the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power that power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms... And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins... even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
(Ephesians 1:19-20; 2:1-6)

The Point of Easter is that the Same Dynamic Power that Raised Jesus from the Dead Can Live in Us!

- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are real.
- It is the beauty and power of God at work!
- Betrayal and trauma are real. But the resurrection of Christ is real.

God wants to create beauty out of your ashes! What if God wants to use your pain, your divorce, your firing, to create something beautiful in your heart?

- As these mountains are real. The resurrection of Jesus. God created the Rocky Mountains that you see. And God creates the beauty of the Rocky Mountains in the landscape of your heart!
- God takes our sin and trauma and creates goodness, glory, calling, and meaning in our lives
- You cannot live in this world and not have trauma, harm, and heartache
- And we also have beauty, goodness, and gifting in this world—it comes to you through the resurrection of Jesus!
- It's the death and resurrection of Jesus. How else can we live in this world any other way?

"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

- The Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, can enter your life and bring new life

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

New life in our hearts! God wants to take the landscape of your heart and create such beauty as the Rocky Mountains! New life.

Believe in Jesus, and New Life Begins Today!

God takes our old, sinful hearts and replaces them with a new heart through our faith in Him.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26)

And just as Jesus rose from the grave, you also can have new life through His resurrection.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

Eternal life is not after we die, but it begins now, today. Believe in Jesus. Believe in His resurrection, and you shall be set free to new life!

- Jesus came to die the death we could not die, to give us the life we've always longed for!
- "I'm asking you this morning to arise and come to Jesus! Arise from your loneliness, your broken-heartedness, and come to Jesus."
- "Say yes to Jesus! Say yes, I believe in you, Jesus. I want you to give me a new heart today."
- You don't have to understand everything. Put your faith in Christ today. Just come to Jesus, and He will begin to live His resurrection power in your heart!"
- "Today, Easter 2026, is the day of your salvation!"