

Three Resurrections

Text : **Mark 16: 1-11**

INTRODUCTION :

A. What is the most significant event in all of human history ?

1. Some eras have changes all that followed, but few single events have done so.
 - a. The rise and fall of great empires have changed history.
 - b. The Greeks affected all culture that followed.
 - c. The Romans changed all governments thereafter.
2. Few single events have changed the course of history.
 - a. The great flood in the days of Noah.
 - b. The assassination Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria = **WW I**
 - c. Great Inventions : electric light, telephone, automobile, airplane, computer, etc.

B. Nothing has affected mankind more than the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

1. There has been some conception of a resurrection as far back as we have history.
2. Many religions have believed in some concept of life after death.
 - a. Embalming was invented because of a belief in an afterlife.
 - b. Elaborate tombs were constructed and furnished to prepare rulers for the afterlife.
 - 1) The Pyramids of Egypt were burial places for kings along with wives, servants, etc.
 - 2) Chinese emperor made a tomb covering a vast area with thousands of clay soldiers.
3. The belief in life after death has produced a large industry.
 - a. Those who sell grave plots, monuments, coffins, flowers, and many more.
 - b. Funeral directors
 - c. Grave robbers

C. The New Testament tells us of several people who have resurrected from the dead.

1. The servant of the Roman Centurion ... **Luke 7: 2-10**
2. The widow's only son ... **Luke 7: 11-17**
3. Tabitha (Dorcas) the benevolent ... **Acts 9: 36-43**
4. Eutychus who fell asleep in church ... **Acts 20: 9-12**
5. Most famous .. Lazarus of Bethany the friend of Jesus ... **John 11: 1-46**
* **All of these were raised by others and all died again.**

TRANSITION :

With this lesson we want to look at three other resurrections.

I. The resurrection of Jesus is a unique event in all of history.

A. It is a resurrection that was foretold by the one resurrected.

1. No one else in history openly foretold his own resurrection in the lifetime of the hearers.
 - a. Some magicians and soothsayers have predicted their return far in the future.
 - b. They couldn't prove they were resurrected because all of the witnesses died.
2. On repeated occasions Jesus foretold of His resurrection.
 - a. **Read ... John 2:18-22**
 - b. **Matt. 17: 22-23** And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; ²³ and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

B. His enemies tried to prevent Him from raising himself from the dead.

1. **Read ... Matt. 27: 62-66**
 - a. They knew Jesus was promising He would rise on the third day.
 - b. They refused to believe that was a possibility ... His disciples will steal the body.
 - c. The Sadducees denied the resurrection and the existence of angels. **Matt 22:23 / Acts 23:8**
2. They made the grave as secure as possible.
 - a. **Matt. 27: 65-66** Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.
 - b. No one could have unsealed the tomb without alerting the guards.
 - c. No one could have rolled away the large stone without awakening a sleeping guard.
3. The well-guarded, sealed tomb was empty when His followers came. (**enemies guard**)

C. Many witnesses confirmed His resurrection

1. His death was confirmed before burial.

Mark 15: 44-45 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵ And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.
2. The Jewish leaders tried to discredit the resurrection.
 - a. They bribed the guards to lie. **Matt. 28: 11-15**
 - b. Their story was not credible.
 - 1) No one could have taken the body without awakening the guards.
 - 2) **If asleep, they could not know what transpired.**

3. The tomb was empty.
 - a. Great care was taken to confirm the tomb was occupied and sealed.
 - b. No wounded man could've opened it from the inside.
(**He had been confirmed dead before burial – Mk 15:44-45**)
 - c. The enemies confirmed the tomb was empty as predicted. (**via the soldiers**)
4. Many witnesses saw Jesus after His resurrection. (**People who knew Him.**)
 - a. Jesus showed himself to His disciples several times.

John 20: 27-29 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

John 21:11- Jesus came and took the bread and gave *it* to them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.
 - b. Jesus was seen of over 500 witnesses at the same time.
 - 1) **Read ... I Cor. 15: 3-8** (**Living witnesses can be questioned.**)
 - 2) 500 witnesses will establish a fact in any court.
- D. His resurrection was by his own power. (**Permanent ... never die again**)
 1. **John 10: 17-18** For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father. (**give self life = never die**)
 2. Jesus has the powers to give life to Himself and to others as well.

John 5: 25-26 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;
- E. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the keystone of Christianity
 1. The resurrection proves Jesus to have been God walking among men.
 - a. **Rom. 1: 4-** who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
 - b. Any fool can take away physical life, but only God can give it.
 2. To believe in the resurrection is to believe that Jesus the Christ is God.

3. Since Jesus is God, all that He taught is true and all that He promised will come.**II. The second resurrection is the resurrection of souls that are dead in sin.****A. The resurrection of souls is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus.**

1. Since Jesus is proven to be God, He is proven to have the authority to forgive sins.
2. **I Cor. 15: 7-** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

B. The souls of all mankind are in need of resurrections ... They are dead in sin.

1. **Rom. 3: 23-** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
2. **Ezek. 18: 4-** ... The soul who sins will die.
3. **Rom. 6:23-** For the wages of sin is death, ...

C. Though one is spiritually dead, the resurrected Christ can make him alive again.

1. **Read ... Eph. 2:1-9**
 - a. This is written to people who have already been spiritually resurrected.
 - b. They were spiritually dead, but Jesus has made them alive again.
 - c. One is not resurrected by his own efforts, **i.e.**, his good life.
2. **Read ... Col. 2:9-14**
 - a. The Apostle is again reminding saved people about what was done for them.
 - b. **Vs. 9** ... deity in a body ... Jesus is fully God in His resurrected body
 - c. **Vs. 11** ... circumcision ... sign of a covenant with God
 - d. **Vs. 12** ... covenant made at the time of baptism
 - e. **Vs. 12** ... faith in the resurrection of Christ is essential to one's own resurrection
 - f. **Vs. 13** ... when spiritually resurrected, one's sins are forgiven, **i.e.**, **the cause of his spiritual death is removed.**

D. Those who CHOOSE to be buried with Christ will be resurrected in His likeness.

1. **Read ... Rom. 6:1-7**
 - a. Again reminding saved people about what was done for them.
 - b. One cannot be resurrected without first dying ... **all die spiritually.**
 - c. Symbolically, the dead are buried just like Jesus was buried.
 - d. Those who come up out of the watery grave have been given new life.
 - f. That new life is eternal ... **transcends physical dead.**
2. One must request the new life in Christ by being baptized.
 - a. God doesn't just go about raising the spiritually dead against their will.

- b. New life is available to all who will be buried with Christ.

III. Their will be one final resurrection that is universal.

A. Spiritual resurrection is voluntary, but that final resurrection is not voluntary.

1. It was never God's will that men would die.
2. Death is a working of Satan. **Gen. 3**

B. God is patient, but a day is set when He will put an end to all Satan's workings.

1. **II Pet. 3: 9** ... God's patience is to allow men time to turn to him.
2. The day will come when God's patience will end.
 - a. **I Cor. 15: 25-26** For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
 - b. **Acts 17: 30-31** Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead

* **Notice : The resurrection of Jesus is the proof of all His teachings.**

C. Jesus will call all who are in the grave to stand before Him.

1. **Read ... John 5: 25-29**
2. People will have no choice, **ALL** will be resurrected.
3. **I Cor. 15: 22-** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

CONCLUSION :

A. Are you looking forward to that great resurrection day ?

1. When you see Jesus, will you rejoice or fear ?
2. If you have chosen to be spiritually resurrected, it will be a joyous reunion.
3. If your body is resurrected, but your spirit is dead, it will be a day of endless weeping.

B. This day you have an opportunity to be made alive again.

1. To have your spirit reunited with God.
2. To have God's Holy Spirit within giving you spiritual life.

INVITATION :

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