

Jesus, the Resurrected Conqueror

John 20:1-31 **INTRODUCTION:**

“THE STORY OF ED GUNN”

TEXT: **THE RESURRECTION**

1. Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
2. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”
3. Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb.
4. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in.
6. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,
7. while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.
8. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—
9. for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.
10. Then they went home.
11. Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in.
12. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.
13. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”
14. She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him.

15. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”
16. “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).
17. “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
18. Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

19. That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.
 1. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!
21. Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”
22. Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.
23. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

24. One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.
25. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”
26. Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.
27. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”
28. “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

29. Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

30. The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.

31. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

MESSAGE:

I. EMOTIONAL TENSION

G.K. Chesterton

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless.

Peter Kreeft

“In an age of hope men looked up at the night sky and saw “the heavens.” In an age of hopelessness they call it simply “space.”

Psalm 16:10

For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

Billy Graham

“The resurrection of Christ changed the midnight of bereavement into a sunrise of reunion; it changed the midnight of disappointment into a sunrise of joy; it changed the midnight of fear to a sunrise of peace.”

Alfred Ackley

“He Lives”

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart

II. EVIDENTIAL REASON

Luke 1:1-4

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

William Lane Craig

“Even if the disciples had believed in the resurrection of Jesus, it is doubtful they would have generated any following. So long as the body was interred in the tomb, a Christian movement founded on belief in the resurrection of the dead man would have been an impossible folly.”

William Lane Craig

"One of the most amazing facts about the early Christian belief in Jesus' resurrection was that it originated in the very city where Jesus was crucified. The Christian faith did not come to exist in some distant city, far from eyewitnesses who knew of Jesus' death and burial. No, it came into being in the very city where Jesus had been publicly crucified, under the very eyes of its enemies."

III. EXPLOSIVE REVOLUTION

Romans 5:18-19

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

— N.T. Wright, **Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church**

“Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.”

Matthew 6:9-10

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

IV. EXCITEMENT TO SHARE

II Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

E.N. Supen

“We are anointed for our assignment on earth because the anointed King lives in us--He is fulfilling His will through us.”

N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

“We could cope—the world could cope—with a Jesus who ultimately remains a wonderful idea inside his disciples' minds and hearts. The world cannot cope with a Jesus who comes out of the tomb, who inaugurates God's new creation right in the middle of the old one.”

Conclusion:

— N.T. Wright, **Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church**

“The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether (as the hymn so mistakenly puts it...). They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom.”