

He Must Rise Again

Easter Sunday

John 20

This weekend in history was the weekend that changed the world.

What was your weekend like? How much did you accomplish?

- Long weekend, out early Thurs, spent time with Mia and took her shooting in the woods
- Friday, went hiking with Jake and had lunch, had church Friday night
- Saturday, errands, had dinner with friends and watched our kids play
- Church then a restful afternoon with the family, maybe finish our movie

We usually look forward to the weekend

Sometimes it seems like it'll never come, sometimes it seems like it comes and goes too fast, and sometimes it just seems about perfect.

But the weekend we're looking at this morning, while it might have been a normal weekend for most of the world, for Jesus, his disciples, Jerusalem, and indeed heaven, was completely different.

One that would change the world.

One that would contain the fulcrum of all time.

But they didn't know it yet...

On Friday, Good Friday

we looked at the events of that Friday

Jesus praying in the garden, "Father..."

Judas betraying him with a kiss

Jesus proclaiming "I AM" and soldiers falling back

His arrest, scourging and trial, all by 6am

The King of the Jews on the cross

Traded for Barabbas, ministering to the thief

Praying that they'd all be forgiven for they didn't know what they were truly doing

Deceit, thinking you're doing one thing, but not knowing the depth or reality of it

Dying on the cross, not one bone broken fulfilled

Veil torn top to bottom, earthquake, dark

Rev 8:1 NKJV - When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Jhn 19:41-42 NKJV - Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation [Day], for the tomb was nearby.

Where no one had been laid before.

1Co 15:20-28 NKJV - 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. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those [who are] Christ's at His coming. 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." But when He says "all things are put under [Him]," [it is] evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The death of the cross as a perfect sacrifice for our sin was one no one would die before or since. The tomb where he laid was not one that was used, it was set apart for him.

This weekend has been an awful one, and it's only almost sundown on Friday.

[John 20:1-10]

We pick it up on Sunday morning.

Saturday, the Sabbath (a day of rest), for the passover, must have been downright somber, full of weeping and mourning and the loud silence of just having lost a loved one, but that loved one you knew to be the Savior.

Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb very early

I'm sure she couldn't sleep. I'm sure she was just waiting for the Sabbath to be over so she could go out to the tomb

Other disciple, John

John stooping down, saw the linen cloth but did not go in

Shock, death, not wanting to get close?

Peter goes in. We know Peter denied Jesus the night before and Jesus would soon restore him, A sense of desperation, having to see, where is He?

Clothes down and separated...was it the angels who unwrapped him? Hard or impossible to take them off yourself (although Jesus could have) the fact that they were neat and folded showed something special had happened. Normally unwrapping a body would have left a complete mess of the grave clothes, covered in ointments, blood, etc.

John encouraged by Peter perhaps being in there, goes in... sees and believes Significant

Generally, the very first Christians did not believe in the resurrection only because the tomb was empty, but because they saw and met the resurrected Jesus. John was something of an exception; he believed simply by seeing the empty tomb, before meeting the resurrected Jesus.

- Guzik

But they didn't understand it's meaning yet.

Jhn 2:18-22 NKJV - So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Many of us claim to know about or even believe in the resurrection...but do we yet know it's meaning? Is it clear in our lives that Jesus is risen? Are our lives lived in a way, like Paul talks about in 1 Cor 15? Do we understand that it's his resurrection that makes eternity in heaven possible for us.

If there was no resurrection from the dead, what would be the point of it all.

And that's exactly what the world believes...there is no resurrection, this life is it, do whatever you want, it's pointless.

But that is a lie.

This life holds eternal value. Now and then.

They went home.

[:11-18]

But Mary...she was just too distraught, too overwhelmed

So distraught that when two angels spoke to her she just responded normally

I have a feeling she realized they were angels later

So distraught she thought Jesus was the gardener

Have you ever been so overwhelmed by something? A loss of a loved one, a relationship, your own life being in the grave from you sin?

Sometimes it's hard to see the reality of what's going on around you.

John 3

But as soon as He said her name. She recognized his voice

She wanted to hug him, to cling to him, to hold him and never let him go

I think of my kids when I come home from a work trip, or even just come out of my office sometimes

But it wasn't time yet.

Eternity would have all the time for that, and would never run out of time for it

It was time for her to tell the others

'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'

“My brethren...our father...our God”

The resurrection brings complete unity between God and man. That even Jesus could truly call us brothers and sisters and that we can call the Father our God just as Jesus is One with the Father so can we be.

Sin was done away with.

The limits of a fleshly body and life were left behind in the grave.

We have the spiritual benefits now, but won't fully realize it until heaven comes.

But now is the time to tell people.

Now is the time to proclaim to the world - in our own resurrected lives, that Jesus is alive.

That our lives are not dead anymore.

Psa 23:5 NKJV - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

**And they're not dead, not because we unwrapped our burial cloths.
Not because we did anything special.**

But because we saw and believed that the Lord was indeed risen.

[:19-23]

**Same day at evening...sundown on Sunday
Jesus goes to where the disciples are**

I wonder what he was doing all day? Was in he the garden, waiting for them to show up, looking for him?

But yet he still goes to them. He wants to see them.

God will give us opportunity sometime to seek him out. We wonder where he is sometimes, and all he might be doing is waiting for us to simply come find him in our situation, in our daily life even.

But even if we don't show, he will come looking for us.

Just like in the garden of Eden, same as in the garden of the tomb.

Shows them his wounds

They were glad to see the Lord

Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, so they (and we) are sent by Jesus.

The Christian life is not meant to be a stagnant one.

- You may never leave your home town, but that doesn't mean your life isn't a sent one
- Just because you've grown up and left home and doing your own life doesn't mean that you've yet been sent.
- But when you've seen the risen Lord in your life, you've put all your trust in him and his death and resurrection...your life begins to change. You hear your name called. You hear him give you a calling and a mission and a direction to live life in. An upward call.
- Your life will never be the same.

- If you haven't heard that call, and are a Christian...are you listening?
Are you still weeping at the tomb, yet to turn around?
- Have you not left the locked room of your faith...is it dead faith?

Romans 10:8-18

Hear the word of God for you. It is a call to be brought back from the dead. In this life and the next. It is truly what it means to be Christian, is to be born again, raised from death to life, and living and clinging to the next life, and not the cares of this one.

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."