

April 4, 2021 - The Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 - Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The resurrection of Jesus enables us to face major change

What change(s) are you facing right now that you find most difficult?

What God did to help Peter face major change

A small step before the big step – Acts 9: 43 – staying for some time in Joppa with Simon the tanner

A vision of clean and unclean animals – Acts 10: 9-16 – “Get up, Peter; kill and eat”

A perfectly timed knock at the door – Acts 10: 17 – While Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared

Unmistakable evidence – Acts 10: 44 – While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word

What is God doing for you right now to help you face major change?

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 - A Song of Victory

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Has there been a time in your life when you were most thankful to God that you would not die, but would live?

What deeds of the Lord have you recounted? What deeds do you need to recount?

²³ This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

What has God done for you that was most marvelous in your eyes?

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

When have you most experienced a day as a day that the Lord made?

When for you was a day that you most rejoiced in?

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - The Resurrection of Christ

In all of Paul's letters 1 Corinthians 15 is where he most thoroughly talks about the importance of the resurrection of Jesus – the centrality of the resurrection.

*Later in this chapter he will talk about –
What if the resurrection did not happen
How the resurrection could happen
Because the resurrection has happened*

Here he talks about the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus – including to him

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Among the strongest evidences of the resurrection of Jesus and the reliability of the Biblical account of the resurrection are –

*The changed lives and dramatic courage of the disciples
The fact that so many saw the resurrected Lord – verse 6 – “most of whom are still alive”
The fact that the first witnesses to the resurrection were women*

⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

John 20:1-18 - The Resurrection

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

*Three people came to an empty tomb that day, but each one responded in a different way
John the believer – Peter the skeptic – Mary Magdalene the broken hearted*