

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life

There is a testimony given in all 4 gospels about the resurrection of Jesus. They each tell the same story but from a slightly different perspective.

John's gospel highlights both Peter & John's experience at the empty tomb!

John 20:1-10 – Listen for the details that John chooses to highlight!

- John was either much faster than Peter, or Peter was somewhat hesitant! **Vs. 4 – “Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.”**

What reason(s) would Peter have had to hesitate? _____

- John arrived at the tomb first, but then he hesitated & Peter went in first! **Vs. 5 – “And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came... and went into the tomb.”**

What reason(s) would John have had to hesitate? _____

- Both Peter and John witnessed the same empty tomb, but it says that only John **“saw and believed” (vs 8).** Why?

Peter was always the bold & outspoken one, why didn't he believe at first?

There was a lot at stake in this for Jesus' disciples:

- They had given the last 3 years of their lives to follow Him!
What if it was all for nothing?
- Their own safety was now on the line!
If the authorities killed Jesus, what might they do to His followers?
- They believed so deeply, but they scattered so quickly! What does that reveal about the depth of their faith? Peter even denied Him 3 times!
- They were on an emotional rollercoaster! From the excitement of Palm Sunday, to the utmost of despair on Friday, followed by an overwhelming sense of hope 3 days later! How does one make sense of all of this?

I want to retell the story again this morning, but in song form! There are some creative liberties taken but it paints a vivid picture of what took place!

Resurrection happened! The result for the disciples was that their *“Guilt & confusion disappeared in sweet release, & every fear melted into peace!”*

But what does the resurrection mean for us today? The same as it did then!

- **There is forgiveness!** We, like Peter, deny Him, & turn our backs on Him! But there is release from our guilt in resurrection - forgiveness for sins!
- **There is hope!** We, like John, though we are loved, still wrestle with doubts & fears! In resurrection, doubts & fears get replaced with promise!
- **There is new life!** Not just for Jesus, but for us too!

Do we grasp our need for this resurrection? If you are unsure, you are not alone! Peter & John didn't grasp all of this either. In vs. 9 it says, **“For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.”**

Why is Easter Sunday, Jesus' resurrection, so critical to our lives?

- **Because though Good Friday can provide us with forgiveness, only Easter Sunday can enable us to live forgiven!** H.C. # 45 part 1
- **Because though Good Friday cancels our sin debt, Easter Sunday allows for us to live free from the bondage of our sin nature!** H.C. # 45 part 2
- **Because though Good Friday releases us from many of our doubts & fears, Easter Sunday allows us to live today in the hope of our eternal future!** H.C. # 45 part 3

In many ways Jesus' resurrection makes possible for us today what Jesus did for Lazarus back in John 11. Lazarus was dead! His body in the tomb 4 days!

John 11:38-44 – Lazarus was given a new life! **The same is true for us today, both in a physical and a spiritual way, because of Jesus' resurrection!**

Jesus revealed this to Martha, Lazarus' sister, in **John 11:25-26** – **“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”** Martha did, but didn't understand it fully!

For us today, because of Easter, **we get to experience spiritual resurrection, that physical death can never take from us!** **“Though we die, yet shall we live!”**

And we get to experience physical resurrection even when physical death takes us from this world! **“Everyone who believes in me shall never die.”**

Both resurrections are made possible for us because of Jesus' resurrection! And both make this life we live today worth living! **Go live an Easter life!**

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