

## Go! And Celebrate the Victory of the Resurrection

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What a joy it is to be gathered on this special day, **Easter Sunday**, the day **we celebrate the greatest victory in human history**—the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, **Jesus** Christ.

As we reflect on this momentous occasion, I want to invite you to consider **the words of the angel at the tomb of Jesus**:

**Matthew 28:6 - He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would.**

- Today, **we celebrate** the fulfilment of the promises of God and the victory over sin & death.
- The Resurrection **is not just an event** in history—
- It is the **defining moment** of our faith and the **foundation of our hope**.

### Go! And Celebrate the Victory of the Resurrection:

The resurrection of Jesus **calls us to action**, and **it changes everything** about how we live.

#### 1. The Resurrection: A Promise Fulfilled

Let's begin with the words of the angel at the tomb in **Matthew 28:6** ***"He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying."***

The context of this verse is profound.

- The disciples and followers of Jesus had witnessed His death on the cross.
- For them, it seemed as though all hope was lost.
- Jesus had been laid in the tomb, and the stone had been rolled in front.
- But this verse marks the turning point—the great news of the resurrection!
- This is the ultimate confirmation of Jesus' divinity and the trustworthiness of His words.

The phrase "just as he said" is crucial here.

Throughout His ministry, **Jesus had repeatedly spoken about His death and resurrection** –

**Matthew 16:21** - From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

- He warned He would die, He also promised that He would rise again on the third day.

**This is no ordinary comeback.**

- This is a **victory over the grave**.
- Jesus **did not** merely resuscitate—**He rose** in glory and power.

**For us, this is not just a historical fact—it's a life-changing reality.**

- The resurrection of Jesus **assures us that** God keeps His promises.
- Every promise **made by God is guaranteed**, and we can trust Him with our lives today.
- Jesus is **not dead**; He is alive, and ***His resurrection proves the power of God over death***.

***“The resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.”***

- The worst thing, **the death of Jesus**, was **not** the end.
- **The resurrection tells us** that God has the final word, and it is **a word of victory**.

**This is Gospel truth wrapped in resurrection glory!**

- The cross **looked like the end**.
- The tomb seemed like **the final chapter**.
- Jesus rose, proving once and for all that **God has the final word**,
- not **death**, not **despair**, not **the devil**.

**In Christ, our story doesn't end in defeat—it ends in glory.**

- The resurrection is God's promise that ***when life hits hardest, hope still lives***.
- The tomb is empty, and that means **our future is full**.

***No matter what you're walking through today, remember—because He lives, the worst thing is never the last thing!***

## **2. The Resurrection: The Victory Over Sin and Death**

**1 Corinthians 15:54-57** - 54 The bodies we now have are weak and can die. But they will be changed into bodies that are eternal. Then the Scriptures will come true, “Death has lost the battle! 55 Where is its victory? Where is its sting?”

56 Sin is what gives death its sting, and the Law is the power behind sin. 57 **But thank God for letting our Lord Jesus Christ give us the victory!**

***Paul is writing here about the ultimate triumph over sin and death.***

- He is referencing **the prophecy of Isaiah 25:8**, where **death is swallowed up in victory**.
- But **through the resurrection** of Jesus, **the power of death was broken**.

This victory over death is not just about the future; it changes our present reality.

- The resurrection means that death no longer has the final say.
- We can face even death itself with hope, knowing that we will be resurrected as He was.
- The sting of sin and death is gone for the believer in Jesus Christ.

*“The resurrection is the demonstration of God's power, and it is the foundation of our hope.”*

Without the resurrection, our faith would be in vain, but because Jesus is alive, we have hope that extends beyond this life.

The resurrection's significance is a demonstration of God's power—

A power that not only overcame death but also redefined the very nature of life itself.

Without the resurrection, *Christianity would lose its defining victory over sin and death, rendering our faith futile and empty.*

- But, because Jesus is alive, our hope is secure.

The Resurrection is not merely a past event; it is the foundation of present and future hope.

- It assures us that no matter the trials of this world,
- Our future is one of unshakable hope, rooted in the risen Christ.
- It's this unbreakable hope that empowers us to live with boldness,
- Knowing that death is not the end, but the beginning of something far greater.

### 3. The Resurrection: A Call to Action

**Matthew 28:7-10 - 7 Now hurry! Tell his disciples** he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him. This is what I came to tell you.”

8 The women were frightened and yet very happy, as they hurried from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them. They went near him, held on to his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said, “Don't be afraid! Tell my followers to go to Galilee. They will see me there.” **(Remember what I have told you.)**

The resurrection of Jesus is not just a reason to celebrate; it is a call to action.

- After the angel proclaims the good news of Jesus' resurrection, **he immediately gives a command**:
- **“Go quickly and tell his disciples.”** The resurrection is not something to be kept secret.
- It is to be shared, proclaimed, and declared.

For us, this is the heart of the Christian mission.

- Just as the women were told to go and tell, so are we called to share the message of Jesus' resurrection with the world.
- Easter is not a one-day event—it is the foundation for a lifetime of witness.

*As C.S. Lewis puts it, “Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, is of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”*

- The resurrection demands a response, and that response is action—
- telling others the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Follow Christ!** Christianity, at its core, is a claim about the nature of reality itself: the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, and the salvation offered through Him.

*Lewis cuts through the noise of half-hearted engagement,*

If it is false, then we are wasting our time; but if it is true, it changes everything.

- The Christian faith demands an all-or-nothing commitment.
- Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate game-changer.

If He truly rose from the dead, then

- We must respond with reverence, obedience, and a radical reordering of our lives.
- Christianity as “moderately important” denies its truth and transformative power.
- Jesus' call to follow Him is not a suggestion—
- It is a summons to eternal significance.
- When we grasp the weight of that truth, we see that everything in life must align with it.
- The Gospel is not a side issue; it is the issue.
- We are called to a passionate, wholehearted faith, not a lukewarm approach.
- Christianity is **either of infinite importance**, or it is not important at all.
- There is no middle ground.

#### 4. The Resurrection: The Assurance of Our Future Hope

**Romans 6:4** - We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- This verse speaks of the spiritual implications of the resurrection.
- Through faith in Christ, we are united with Him in His death and resurrection.

- When we are baptized, we symbolize our participation in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- The resurrection **guarantees that we will rise again**, freed from **the power of sin**.

The resurrection assures us that we are **new creations in Christ**.

- **We are not bound by our past failures, our sin, or our shame.**
- **In Jesus**, we have been **given a new life**, a new **identity**, and a **new hope**.
- The resurrection is **not just a future hope**; **it's a present reality**.
- We are empowered **by the Holy Spirit to live differently**, to live for Christ.

***"The resurrection is not only the great vindication of Jesus, but also the great beginning of a new creation."***

The resurrection of Jesus **is the decisive act in God's plan** of redemption.

- It not only **confirms Jesus as the Messiah**,
- but it also **marks the beginning of God's restoration** of all things.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Paul tells us, **"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun."**

- This new life **is not** merely about individual transformation.
- It is the **birth of a new creation** where the Kingdom of God is **fully realized**.

Through **Jesus' resurrection**, we catch a glimpse of what is to come—

**Revelation 21:5** - He who was seated on the throne said, ***"I am making everything new!"*** Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**The resurrection** is the first fruits of this new creation, proof **God's work of renewal has begun**.

***In our world, where suffering and death still seem so prevalent, the resurrection offers hope.***

- It assures us that **the story is not over**, that **a new creation is unfolding** even now.
- We are invited **to participate** in it through **the power of the risen Christ**.
- It is a call **to live with a Kingdom mindset**, proclaiming that **Jesus is alive**
- And, through Him, **all things** are being made new.

**CLOSE: A Call to Celebrate and Respond**

**Let us remember the glorious truth of the resurrection. Jesus is alive!**

**This victory over sin and death is ours in Christ.**

The resurrection **is not just** an event to be remembered; ***it's a reality that transforms us.***

**Go! And Celebrate the Victory of the Resurrection!**

***Let the joy of the resurrection fill your hearts, and let that joy compel you to share the good news with others.***

- **Live as people** who have been raised to new life in Christ.
- And if you have ***not yet placed your trust in Jesus*** as your Lord and Savior, today is the day.
- **Come to Him**, trust in His resurrection, and ***receive the gift of eternal life.***

Let me urge you today with the words of the Apostle Paul in

**Romans 10:9** - If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**This is the heart of the Gospel—the call to repentance and the invitation to new life.**

- **Repentance is more than a mere acknowledgment of wrongdoing.**
- **It is a radical turning away from sin**
- **An embracing of the grace and mercy *offered to us in Christ Jesus.***
- The resurrection is not just a historic event; **it is the power of God available to you today, to *cleanse and transform your life.***

**It requires that we surrender, that we turn from the old ways of sin, and that *we embrace Jesus as Lord and Savior.***

**To declare Him as Lord is to accept His rule over our lives—no longer living in rebellion, but in obedience to His loving commands.**

**I call you to respond.**

- **If you believe** that Jesus died for your sins and rose again,
- **if you confess** Him as Lord, you are promised salvation.
- The old has gone, and **the new has come.**

I ask you; **will you repent and turn from sin?**

**Will you embrace the new life that Jesus offers through His resurrection?**

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