

The Wonder of Jesus ***The Power of His Resurrection***

Lesson #11 for June 14, 2008

Scriptures: Matthew 27:62-66 Luke 24:36-39 Acts 3:14-16; 1 Corinthians 15; Philippians 3:7-11.

1. This lesson is about the resurrection of Jesus. How important to you is “the resurrection”? The resurrection sets Christianity apart from every other religion. How would your experience in Christianity be different if the resurrection had not happened?
2. Last week we noted that one of the questions in the great controversy that was answered on crucifixion weekend was the question about whether or not Satan was equal with Christ. When Jesus arose by His own power and “came forth” from the grave, He proved that He was, in fact, divine, a claim that Satan can never successfully dispute.
3. Satan had claimed that he should be treated as an equal with Christ. After all, didn't he stand on one side of God's throne while Christ stood on the other? Wasn't his name “Lucifer” or “light-bearer,” one of the names of God? But Lucifer was not God. For example, he does not have the ability to create or to give life. Jesus proved that He was Divine by rising from the dead by His own power.

When the voice of the mighty angel was heard at Christ's tomb, saying, Thy Father calls Thee, **the Saviour came forth from the grave by the life that was in Himself**. Now was proved the truth of His words, “I lay down My life, that I might take it again. . . . I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.” Now was fulfilled the prophecy He had spoken to the priests and rulers, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” John 10:17,18; 2:19. {DA 785.2}

4. So, what is so important about the resurrection? Is it a symbol of something very important? Or was it primarily to prove that the Jesus of Nazareth that had lived as a human being for so many years in Palestine was, in fact, the Divine Messiah?
5. Why didn't Jesus make a grand entrance into the Temple in all His glory so all of Jerusalem (and thus the whole world) would know that He had risen?
6. Compare the importance of the crucifixion with the importance of the resurrection. What essential lessons are we supposed to learn from each?
7. The story of Christ is, of course, the story of a single life. Beginning with the incarnation, the miraculous events of His life, His message, the cross, the resurrection, and ultimately the second coming. In your thinking, which of these events is the most important? Why?
8. Read Matthew 27:50-66 and Mark 15:42-47. Is there anything about these passages which raises question as to their veracity? Do they sound like a story made up by a good fiction writer? Or do these stories have all the earmarks of authentic history?
9. What would you have thought if you were worshiping in the temple on the eve of Passover and you looked up and saw the curtain separating the holy place from the most holy place being ripped from top to bottom? Why did God do that?
10. What was it that impressed the centurion to say, “He really was the Son of God!”? (Matthew 27:54, *Good News Bible*)

11. If Jesus had failed to rise from His tomb, would you consider the rest of His life irrelevant and meaningless? Even a fraud?
12. Look over the final chapters of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. What is the central message of those passages? The Jesus who had been crucified and was buried in a rock tomb was suddenly “missing” and later appeared in person before His disciples in the upper room!
13. The Jewish nation including the disciples had hoped that Jesus would lead them to conquer the Romans! Instead, Jesus conquered death! Which would have been more difficult?
14. Do we have any favorite idea or ideas that we need to be willing to give up before Jesus can come again?
15. Would seeing Someone positively rising from the dead and appearing to you on several occasions be reason enough for you to dedicate the rest of your life to spreading the good news about Him?
16. We know that some years later, the name “Christian” was first used in the city of Antioch to make fun of the people who were followers of a “dead man.” (Acts 11:26) Why does the idea of a resurrection from the dead impact people so much?
17. Read again the story of the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35) What do you think it was that moved those two disciples so powerfully? What did they mean when they said that their “hearts were burning” within them? What texts of Old Testament Scripture did Jesus use to convince them? Why didn’t Luke record the texts which Jesus used? Did Stephen (Acts 7), Peter (Acts 2, 4), and Paul (Acts 13, 17) use those texts in their speeches and sermons?
18. Sometime later, Peter and John were on their way to the temple when a beggar at the Gate Beautiful begged them for some money. As we know, they apparently did not have any money with them. Instead, they healed the man of his paralysis. Jerusalem became so excited to realize that the name and influence of Jesus was still alive!
19. Has the message of the risen Savior becomes sort of “ho-hum” to us in our day?
20. How do you understand 1 Corinthians 15:20? In what sense does the resurrection of Christ guarantee our resurrection? Was it His resurrection that guarantees our resurrection or is it the promise of God that guarantees it?
21. Read John 5:25-29; 11:23-26; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; and Revelation 1:18. What message is it that God is trying to tell us through these verses?
22. If you could have asked the disciples two weeks after resurrection Sunday about their thoughts regarding that weekend, what do you think they would have said. What explanation would they have given for His death and His resurrection? Would their answers have been different after Pentecost? Would their answers have been different a year later?
23. What difference does all of this make in our lives? How did it affect the disciples? The disciples finally realized: 1) That Christ was God; 2) That He had full power and control over life and death; 3) That their best “Friend” was the King of the Universe; and 4) That death did not really matter any more!!
24. What does the resurrection tell us about the great controversy? Why is it so important to know that Jesus was none other than God Himself? Since Jesus was God, did Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection really answer questions about God? Can you think of any evidence provided by Jesus during His life—or even at the time of His death prior to His resurrection—that convincingly proves to you that He is Divine?

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