



A Spiritual Encouragement Message **October 28, 2020**

The Resurrection Changes Everything

by Randall Jarrell

If we aren't in awe of the resurrection of Jesus as a historical event, we may only see it as a fairytale. The resurrection is scientifically impossible, but historically true. The resurrection is history-making, earth-shaking, life-transforming, and eternity-changing truth. You may believe it, but do you understand how it changes your life? You may comprehend the theology behind it, but has it yet changed your behavior? Luke 24 shows us how Jesus' resurrection does this.

1. Jesus' resurrection changes our conversations (Luke 24:13-24)

Two of Jesus' disciples walk together down a seven-mile stretch of road, having a conversation. It was about the resurrection of Jesus, obviously the most shocking news they had ever heard. A stranger began to walk with them (Jesus incognito), and they were astounded to learn this man had apparently not heard about the resurrection. Notice that their conversation wasn't just about the details of the resurrection, but also about who He was supposed to be, His life, His death, and what it all meant. The truth of the resurrection is just as shocking today as it was the day it occurred. Don't treat the resurrection as some cold truth you've always heard. Do not allow your understanding and presentation of the gospel to be about the death of Jesus alone. Let Jesus' resurrection change your conversation. Talk about it this week with the same excitement as if it just happened.

2. Jesus' resurrection changes our Bible study (Luke 24:25-44)

Staying in stealth mode with His two disciples, Jesus "the stranger" called them a couple of fools and began a Bible study during the journey. If there were any conversation in history you would want to overhear, this would be the one. Jesus walked the men through the entire Old Testament to tell them how it all refers to Him, His death and suffering, and His resurrection and glory (24:27, 44). He began with the books of Moses (the Pentateuch) and led them through the Prophets (ending with Malachi). This was the best Bible study ever! The Old Testament promised and prophesied the whole point: Jesus' resurrection. Study your Bible with the resurrection in mind. Watch how God takes his people through good-as-dead experiences, such as Isaac's sacrifice, Joseph's imprisonment, and Daniel's den of lions. God loved to orchestrate scenes that pointed forward to the resurrection of Jesus while leaving the greatest glory for the resurrection itself. In your personal devotions, family Bible studies, Sunday school classes, be aware of the resurrection theme running throughout Scripture.

3. Jesus' resurrection changes our witness (Luke 24:45-49)

As Jesus revealed His identity to His disciples, He taught them a very important truth. His gospel presentation explains how their lives will change because of that truth. "Repentance and forgiveness should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem" (24:47). Don't miss this - repentance does not just mean to turn away from sin. That is only part of the truth. Repentance also means turning to Jesus. Forgiveness means that God will not hold His judgment against us for our sin because Jesus has been judged in our place. "Nations" means that there is not one person on earth who does not need to hear about the gospel of salvation through Jesus. Repentance and forgiveness should not be whispered, muttered, or mumbled. Witnessing lost people turn from their sin and to Jesus is a joy. Telling sinners who feel the weight, guilt, and shame of their sin about Jesus should be our pleasure. Jesus says that repentance and forgiveness are to be proclaimed because this is the news that people are dying to hear. The nations are looking for ways to relieve their guilt and shame for sin that only the gospel can bring. Let the resurrection change your witness by proclaiming its truth.

Conclusion

The resurrection has changed the world...it does so by changing each person who comes to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. The life changing power of that kind of faith is immeasurable.