

Rolling Stone Sunday

John 11:38-44

Happy Rolling Stone Sunday!

Some call it RESURRECTION SUNDAY. And that's what it is, for sure.

I'm calling it "*Rolling Stone Sunday*" because I want to emphasize the power of Jesus' resurrection for **today**.

The resurrection power of Jesus is available for all who believe - **TODAY!**

We're good at celebrating what Jesus HAS DONE. And we're good at celebrating what JESUS IS GOING TO DO in the FUTURE. *One day, we will see Jesus in heaven. One day, we will be healed. One day, we will have no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain.* And all of that is true.

But so it is just as true TODAY. *For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2).*

Our faith in what Christ has done in the past, empowers us to reach into the future and get a taste of heaven here on earth today.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good" is an invitation from God that is available to those who believe - **each and every day**.

That's why the apostle Peter calls our faith - '**a living hope**'. It's alive. It's real. It's dynamic, and powerful, and already working in your life today.

So if you're listening to this message today and you're feeling like **all hope is lost**. Your faith is *small* and your problems are *big*. Your heart is heavy

and bound up in fear. Your thoughts are full of depression. You're tired of being bound to addiction, or stuck in a toxic relationship.

Jesus wants to give you His resurrection life so you can live free - **today**.

John 11:38-44

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him. and let him go."

Two things I want you to notice in this passage:

1) Jesus says - **Take away the stone.**

This tells me - It is God's will for you to have life

2) Jesus says - **Loose him and let him go.**

This tells me - It is God's will for you to live free

** Bird in a cage analogy - it's one thing to be alive; it's another to live free.*

Jesus wants to give you life; and He wants you to live free.

So he says to Martha - “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of Lazarus, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

There was a problem. A grave stone was blocking a miracle. But not just a **physical** grave stone, but a **psychological** grave stone. *Jesus was using the physical, to demonstrate the spiritual.*

A physical stone would not get in the way of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life. But **human logic** can sometimes get in the way of God's will being done in our life. Martha tries reasoning with Jesus as to why she cannot obey his commands. Her facts are right. But her faith is small.

But thankfully, they chose to obey Jesus anyway. Thankfully, Jesus said: *“Truly I tell you, if you have **faith like a grain of mustard seed**, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”* (Matthew 17:20).

So they took their mustard seed kind of faith and rolled away the stone. And what happened? Jesus responds to the faith of the stone roller! **Your faith in Jesus will release the miracle of new life.**

Dead things come to life when we obey God's word.

Then Jesus said to Martha: *'If you believe you will see'*. In the natural, you want to see something before you believe it. But in the supernatural, you must **believe what Jesus says before you see** it in the physical realm.

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, they enter the realm of the supernatural. **How? You obeyed the commands of Christ.**

Jesus told his disciples - "*Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned*" (Mark 16:16).

Someone shared the Gospel with you and you believed it was true. Then you obeyed the commands of Christ and got baptized. And when that happened, you received eternal life from God.

Our faith **rolls away the stone** of unbelief and new life emerges from the realm of the dead!

What stone is blocking your miracle of new life?

Is it unbelief? Is it anger and resentment toward God?

Is it unforgiveness against another person?

If you want to receive forgiveness for your sins; if you want to freedom from your addictions; if you want a *living hope* that will sustain you in tough times; if you want a dead marriage to come alive again - then you can put your faith and trust in Jesus.

Jesus is saying to you today - "**Remove the stone!**" If you will remove the stone of unbelief by placing your faith in Jesus today - He will call you out of the grave and into resurrection life.

Notice the second command that Jesus gave to his friends -

'Loose him and let him go.'

Lazarus was made alive but he still had his grave clothes on! He was alive but he couldn't move his hands or feet. His head was also bound. He couldn't hear, see, or speak.

Many believers in Jesus are bound up like Lazarus. They are spiritually made alive, but physically bound up in - *unforgiveness, old sin habits, religious traditions, legalism, and religious performance.*

It's one thing to be made alive. It's another thing to live free.

Jesus said - *"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:36).

WRAPPED UP INSIDE THOSE GRAVE CLOTHES is a free person, a clean person, a forgiven person, a victorious person.

Will you set that person free?

Jesus is saying - *"Loose him and let him go?"*

*All of us are feeling **bound** and restricted these days.*

*With all the social isolation commands from the government - we're getting a taste of what it's like **spiritually** for people to walk around in grave clothes. Bound up in sin and living without hope.*

*The resurrection power of Jesus is available to you and me - **TODAY.***

What He accomplished on the cross 2,000+ years ago is available to all who would call upon His name - and say - LORD SAVE ME.

LORD, SET ME FREE.

Is that you? Do you want Jesus to give you life eternal?

Do you want to know what it feels like to live free?

Pray this prayer with me.