

Jesus Is Alive

CMBC Easter April 20, 2014

1 Corinthians 15:1–6; 12–13; 20–22

In spite of what Jesus had told his disciples, they were totally unprepared for the events of the crucifixion and resurrection.

When we read Jesus' words, they seem so clear: **“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”**

Our ears often don't hear because our heart is not ready to listen. In fact often our heart won't even believe what the eyes see.

Take for example the soldiers who were guarding the tomb. They were eye witnesses to what happened that morning.

- They felt the earthquake - **Matt. 28**
- They saw the angel, bright as lightning
- They saw the stone rolled away
- With fear they fell to the ground
- When they told the leading priests they were offered a bribe and accepted it
- They were told: **[13] “You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.’ [14] If the governor hears about it, we'll stand up for you so you won't get in trouble.”**

Even when the evidence is so clear, a rebellious heart will not believe.

Now listen carefully.

You and I are no different. That you believe this morning is only by the grace of God. That is reason for you and me to humbly give thanks to God this morning.

Evidence alone will not make you a believer.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...” Ephesians 3:8

And yet the evidence is overwhelming.

As we heard read in **1 Corinthians 15**

If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our faith is futile, there is no hope, and we are a most miserable and pitiful lot of people.

Even more pitiful are those for whom Christ is still dead, when in fact he is alive.

The Easter story and our lives are full of examples.

1. Those who thought men could stop God.

- a. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus
- b. Jesus joined them and asked what they were discussing,

Luke 24

They stood still, their faces downcast.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. [20] The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; [21] **but we had hoped** that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

...“We had hoped...”

- c. He is alive!
- d. To all those to whom it seems that men will stop the Gospel message, Jesus is alive!

2. Those who gave up

- a. Disciples went fishing
...Back to the old life
- b. **John 21:[2]**Several of the disciples were there (by the Sea of Galilee) —Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.
[3] Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”
“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.
 - Hope is crushed.
 - There is a sense of failure.
 - They are giving up
 - Have you felt that way?[4] At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. [5] He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”
“No,” they replied.

[6] Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

- c. He is alive!

3. Those who were weary and weak

- a. Peter’s denial
- b. In panic it all fell apart
- c. Imagine the guilt and turmoil in his heart
- d. But look at the change a living Christ brings to a life – Christ becomes all

Acts 4:[13] The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. [14] But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say.

- e. Jesus is alive!

4. Those who were sincere but disheartened

- a. Women with spices
...Paying their respects
- b. He is alive!
- c. You go through the paces of going to church, reading your Bible praying, but there isn’t much life ...
- d. Jesus is alive!!
Believe it! Hang on to it! It will make a difference in you walk with Him.

5. Those who were swayed by the crowd

- a. Pilate knew something was good about Jesus, something was different about this man.
Matt. 27:[23] When the crowd shouted “Crucify him!” Pilate asked, “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”
[24] Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing.
[26] So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to

be crucified.

- b. The power of the crowd was too much.
- c. The power of his political career
- d. The power of Caesar
- e. Jesus is alive!
There is more power here than in any crowd or dictator.
- f. He is alive!

6. Those with whom his teaching doesn't agree

- a. Pharisees
 - ...Get rid of him
 - i. Fabricate a story
 - ii. Totally blind
- b. He is alive!
- c. Look again at the evidence.
- d. This IS the Son of God
- e. He is alive!

7. Those who stay in sin

- a. As if there was no solution to sin
- b. He is alive!
- c. He is alive to deliver you from the terrible grip of sin.

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Jesus is alive.

He lives today.

His power, his reality can deal with any circumstance in your life.

Believe in Him.

Trust Him.

Go to Him.

Talk to Him.

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 22

[15:1] Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. [2] By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

[3] For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

[5] and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. [6] After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living,

though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, [8] and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

[9] For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. [11] Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

[12] But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

[14] And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. [15] More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. [19] If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

[20] But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [22] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.