

Truly This Was The Son Of God

Today is Easter, resurrection Sunday . Today is when God glorified Jesus as He said he would in John 12:28 -*Father, give glory to your name.*” A voice from heaven said, *“I have given it glory, and I will give it glory again.”*

Resurrection can only follow death. In order to have a resurrection you need a death. Jesus said in **John 12:24**. Listen carefully: *Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is **buried**, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. Jesus died and rose again from the dead and as a result of this millions upon millions have encountered life abundantly eternally through this one man Jesus.*

Romans 5:18-19 Here it is in a nutshell: *Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.*

When Jesus died he paid the penalty for our sin and set us free and when He rose again he conquered death and the power over death giving us eternal life. When Jesus died nature responded - it was the 6th hour (12noon) and it was dark and when Jesus cried out it is finished the veil in the temple tore from top to bottom and the earth quaked, the rocks split open which is why the Centurion at the time of His crucifixion said, *“Truly this was the Son of God”* In Matt 28:2 : Nature responded again at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The earth quaked.

Matthew 28:1-8. (READ). The stone was not rolled away so that Jesus could get out but so others could get in and see that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead as He had promised - The bible tells us (Ezek36:26) that God will remove our stony or stubborn heart and give us a heart of flesh or a heart of obedience so that we can enter into the joy of knowing the treasures we have in Jesus.

The stone blocking your destiny in Christ Jesus has been rolled/removed for your sake. God is able to remove the obstacles in your life so that you can enter into eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The angel who announced the good news of the resurrection of Jesus to the women gave them 4 messages:

1. Don't be frightened - The reality of the resurrection brings joy not fear. When fear grips you remember the empty tomb. When you come to Jesus it isn't a frightening experience but a beautiful experience of freedom from the oppressor the devil.

2. He isn't here - Hallelujah! Jesus is not dead, Jesus is not a relic, Jesus is not a historic artefact preserved in a museum somewhere, No. He is alive in you and me with his people. You and I are the living stones that Jesus the resurrected Christ has raised in this generation to shine His light and live that super abundant life that He promised.

3. Come in and see - The evidence for the women to see was that the tomb was empty then and still remains empty. The resurrection of Jesus is not merely a historical fact which it is, but it is far more than that to those who believe in His name. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope, gives us power over death, a future, it is what keeps our Christian faith alive, It is the reason we live for because Jesus lives in us and so does His resurrection power. That's why Paul said in **Philippians 1:21** *Christ means everything to me in this life, and when I die I'll have even more.*

4. Go quickly and tell - They were to spread the joy of the resurrection and in like manner we too are called to spread the Good News about Jesus' resurrection. The Gospel is the Good news.

Jesus resurrection is key to the Christian faith. Why? *Just as he promised Jesus rose from the dead. We can therefore be confident that he will accomplish all he has promised. Our faith is alive because Jesus is alive. **1Cor15:17** *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith doesn't mean anything. Your sins have not been forgiven.*

- Jesus bodily resurrection shows us that the living Christ is ruler of God's eternal Kingdom, not a false prophet or an imposter. The religious teachers were trying to accuse Jesus as an imposter and a fraud but they could not. They bribed the soldiers, they sealed the tomb in fear of the disciples stealing the body of Jesus, set a guard 24/7 - but nothing could hold Jesus in the tomb.
- We can be certain of our resurrection because Jesus was resurrected. Death isn't the end-there is a future life that is eternal with Him. Jesus told one of the thieves hanging on the cross, today you will be with me in paradise. Jesus has promised us an inheritance that never fades away (1 Peter 1:4 (NIRV) *He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to him. It is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you).*
- The power that brought Jesus back to life is available to us to take us from spiritual death to spiritual life in Him. Jesus said I am the Way, I am the Truth and I am the Life. John 3:36 says he who believes in the son has everlasting life but he who rejects the son will not see life. John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*
John 6:47 (Amp) *I assure you and most solemnly say to you, he who believes [in Me as Saviour—whoever adheres to, trusts in, relies on, and has faith in Me—already] has eternal life [that is, now possesses it].*
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis for the church's witness to the world that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God through whom you and I might be saved from eternal damnation to eternal life in Him.

Though Jesus was betrayed His plans were fulfilled; though they beat him mercilessly, His mercy only magnified; though he was mocked upon that cross he forgave every sin; though God's presence was forbidden His sacrifice tore the veil that was separating us from the Fathers presence; though he was shrouded in grave clothes his light could not be contained; and though they sealed his tomb - He broke free.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

Jesus loves you. He will not condemn you. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and when you do you will discover your scars aren't permanent and your recovery will be quick. Christ will meet you in your dark places and heal the wounds of your past because His grace is greater than your shame. Where sin abounds His grace super abounds. **There's no limit to the depth of shame he can see us through because there's no limit to the grace He can supply.**

Today if you are feeling the weight of your shameful past and sinful ways, come to Jesus. He is ready to forgive you and set you free. There are only two choices - to believe that Jesus rose from the dead, or to be closed to the truth - denying it, ignoring it or rationalising it away. What do you believe? Jesus can be the difference in your life today. Accept Him today. Do it now.

Prayer : Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin, I know you died for me to set me free. I repent of all sin in my life and I ask you to forgive me. Be my Lord and Saviour. Amen