

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of April 2020

Witnessing the Resurrection

Matthew 28:9-10

Sunday, April 5, 2020

The secret of Christian stability is the Resurrection. Actually, the symbol of Christianity is more an empty tomb than a cross. The empty tomb gives meaning to the cross. If it were not for the empty tomb, the cross would have been a tragedy. What was sadness on Friday, turned into gladness on Sunday.

It was only right that the witnesses of Jesus' crucifixion and burial would also be witnesses of His resurrection. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were the first to receive news of the risen Lord and to encounter Him. They had been at the cross; they had been there when He was laid in the tomb, and now they received love's reward – The joy of the Resurrection!

Part of the crowd at the cross was also at the empty tomb. They were witnesses of the resurrection. And so, we also witness resurrection, the return to life, and the defeat of death, because on Friday, He was dead but on Sunday, He is alive! We see here the was-ness of death and the is-ness of life!

Let's study together, three facts of the Resurrection!

Sunday, April 12, 2020

I. Witnessing the Resurrection affirms the Reality of the Resurrection!

Our Christian faith is built on the reality of the Resurrection. It does not alone prove the deity of Christ, but it is consistent with it. Because Jesus is Lord, we can believe that He is the resurrected Lord.

Was the Resurrection real? Many scholars say that it is the best-attested fact in history! Yet skeptics try to explain away the Resurrection by saying that the women went to the wrong tomb, or that Jesus fainted and later revived, or that thieves stole His body, or the disciples removed His body, or the Roman or Jewish authorities took His body.

No matter what skeptics say, the tomb is empty!

When the women left on Friday, His body was in the tomb, but when they returned on Sunday, the tomb was empty! Luke's account declares that there were two men standing there in shining garments and they said to the women, "*why seek ye the living among the dead.*" He is not here, but is risen. He has been raised!

Sunday, April 19, 2020

II. Witnessing the Resurrection gives witness to the Resurrection!

Knowing that the resurrection is real, what are we to do?

We are to tell others! Notice, the Angels told the women to, “*go quickly, and tell...*” The first declaration of the Resurrection was a call to action. “Go quickly, tell!” This is the kind of news that you do not keep to yourself. The Resurrection is the greatest news since news was news! The kind of news that gives courage, “fear not.” News that gives assurance, “He is not here.” News that gives joy, “with great joy.” **This is news that gives life!**

Sunday, April 26, 2020

III. Witnessing the Resurrection reminds us of the greatest witness: changed lives!

Carefully note, the change in the men who followed Jesus at the close of the Gospels and the opening of the book of Acts. Notice particularly Peter and James. Peter had denied the Lord three times. He had cursed and sworn as though he had never known the restraining influence of Jesus. He had zoned out and wept bitterly, and he had joined the other disciples behind closed doors after Jesus died. But then turn over about two pages in your Bible, and you will see that he is standing outside that same upper room of the Last Supper preaching Christ boldly. He defied the same Sanhedrin that had condemned Jesus to death and slept in his jail cell the night before he was to be executed.

So, what changed Peter? – It was the Power of the Resurrected Christ!

James later assumed a position of leadership in the Jerusalem Church. But in Jesus’ lifetime, James did not believe in Him. After the Resurrection, this earthly brother of the Lord, was transformed from a doubter into a believer.

This same resurrected Lord is still changing lives!
If you have met Him, your life has been changed!

The greatest thing that has happened in my life, I met the Resurrected Christ! He changed me – He charged me – He gave me a job to do and then He gave me the Power to do it!