

## Easter Sunday

*Humble Yourself and God Will Exalt You (Luke 18:9-14)*

4-4-10

Scripture Reading – Luke 23:13 – 24:53

God wants to resurrect our lives just like he resurrected: Jesus, disciples, Leah, Erik, Steph, thief on the cross.

- **John 10:10 (my translation)**

<sup>10</sup>I have come that you may have life, *and have it abundantly.*

- **John 15:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, *and that your joy may be full.*

- **Mark 10:29-30 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>*who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.*

- God resurrected my life 12 years ago when I least expected it.

- o Sometimes it can be hard to put my experience into words. My life is totally different than it was, WAY harder than it was, and yet it's WAY better than it was.

- **1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are *filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy*, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- Life in the bay analogy

**God resurrects our lives in ONLY ONE WAY and that's through Jesus Christ.**

- **John 14:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection 2,000 years ago made resurrection life possible for us today.
  - o The Bible teaches that the moment God changes our heart, and we believe in Jesus to the degree that we are willing to leave our old way of life and follow Him, we become one with or *united with Christ*.
    - **Romans 6:5-11 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been *united with him in a death like his*, we shall certainly be *united with him in a resurrection like his*. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, *we believe that we will also live with him*. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves *dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*.
    - The moment we trust in and follow Jesus...
      - His life becomes our life
      - His death becomes our death
      - His resurrection becomes our resurrection
    - Believer's baptism beautifully symbolizes this truth.
      - *buried with Him in baptism... and raised with Him to newness of life*.

**What keeps us from accepting God's offer to resurrect our lives?**

- On a spiritual level our sin and the devil.
  - Sin – spiritually dead and spiritually blind
    - That’s why God has to “open our minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45) just like he did for the disciples.
  - Devil - **2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- On a human level there are lots of reasons, some of which include: ignorance, unbelief, false or incomplete teaching, negative experiences or perceptions, fear.
  - But I think a HUGE barrier for many people, on a human level, is pride.
  - I know it was for me. *I didn’t think I needed Christ or Christianity or any religion, and I looked down on those who did.* I was a lot like the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.
  - **Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>He also told this parable to some who *trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:* <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, *standing by himself,* prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that *I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.* <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, *standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven,* but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, *this man went down to his house justified,*

*rather than the other.* For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- According to the Bible there are only two ways to get right with God.
  - 1) Be perfect
  - 2) Accept Jesus' free gift