

04/11/04 – “DON’T YOU REMEMBER?” (EASTER)

We cannot be saved unless we believe in the **resurrection**... The **resurrection** of Jesus Christ is total victory over a lost & dying world
The creation of the world cost God only His breath, “let there be light” - The redemption of the world cost Him His own blood
At His birth, the darkness of the night was turned into the brightest glory... at the Cross the brightness of day was turned into the night
The horror of the Cross, the curse of it, the shame, the agony proceeded by denial & betrayal of those closest to Him
Jesus endured six bogus trials - Pilate wanted to let Him go – he could find no guilt in Him, He had done nothing worthy of death
Jesus chose the Cross - for this He was born – He died that we might live – **He died for me...He died for you**
Jesus Christ didn’t create a religion or belief system – He called us to a relationship of eternal life with Himself

PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT

Jesus would be from the seed of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, from the tribe of Judah, defined place & time of His birth, would be born of a virgin, would be a
massacre of infants after He was born, the flight to Egypt, a ministry in Galilee, His character would be revealed, there would be a triumphant entry, He
would be sold for 30 pieces of silver, crucified, die & be buried, & rise the third day!

Isaiah 53 says that He would be silent before His accusers, be beaten & spit upon, be hated without cause, would suffer for us, be crucified with sinners &
robbers, His hands & feet would be pierced (Psalm 22), would pray for His enemies (Psalm 109), not a bone would be broken, they would cast lots for His
garments, be buried in a rich man’s grave, would not allow His holy one to undergo decay (Psalm 16) & that Jesus would ascend on high
**C.S. Lewis said, “Either this man was & is the Son of God or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at
Him & kill Him as a demon or you can fall at His feet & call Him Lord & God. But let none of us come with any patronizing nonsense about Him
being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us, He did not intend too.”**

DEATH

In order to appreciate the **resurrection** we need to appreciate the **Cross** - Spurgeon sums up his theology in four words: **He died for me.**

The horror of the Cross, the curse of it, the shame, the agony, the abandonment, literally becoming sin

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21

It’s amazing love that God would die for us – Scripture says that a good man would die for another – But would a man die for someone that hates him?

Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners – We really need to think about that – “For God so loved the world He gave...”

BURIAL

What’s the burial all about? A dead corpse lying in the grave Saturday morning... Pilate had it verified, the tomb was sealed & guarded, the disciples
scattered, Peter had denied Christ, Judas had committed suicide, everybody was scared, the city was in an uproar... A bad situation if you are a disciple
Confused & despondent... **disciples didn’t get it**... Thought they were sure He was going to set up a new kingdom of Israel

The message of the burial is that it’s never over in light of the **resurrection**... Love hopes all things, believes all things, endures all things, never fails

The message of the grave... we are convinced that neither height nor depth, nor power, nor principality, nor things present or things to come can separate us
from the love that’s in Christ Jesus our Lord... Everybody will be in a grave, but Jesus is the **Resurrection & Life**

John 11:25 – “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies...’”

RESURRECTION

Jesus had told the disciples many times, “I’m going to suffer, die & rise again.” - **Disciples forgot & unbelievers remembered**

Amazing paradox – Believers needed eye witnesses – Unbelievers tried to stop resurrection before it happened

**Simon Greenleaf, Harvard Law Professor – A Treatise on the Law of Evidence – “According to the laws of legal evidence used in the courts of law,
there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any event in history.”**

Every human being that has ever lived, the bad & the good – Hitler, Stalin, Mao, will be in final resurrection - He is going to separate sheep from goats

People who don’t know Christ want “to bottle” eternity in the temporal, building kingdoms to themselves that can only fade in time

Jesus came out of the grave – He did defeat death – He did defeat sin – He did defeat Satan – He is victorious

Jesus said, “No man takes my life, but I freely give it – **Nobody killed Him** – He laid His life down as a sacrifice, once & for all

Peter’s first sermon after the **resurrection** on Pentecost, “And God **raised** Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death... since it was impossible for
Him to be held in its power but put to death... the Prince of Life, the One who God **raised** from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.” Acts 3:14-15