

The Resurrection Risk

Acts 2

I want to start this morning's Talk with a **disclaimer**
My **Mother-in-law** actually gave me this joke.

George went on holiday to the **Middle East** with his Family
Including his **Mother-in-law**

But during their holiday in **Jerusalem**
George's **Mother-in-law** died

With the **death certificate** in his hand
George goes to the **consulate**

To make **arrangements** to send the body **home** for **burial**

The Consulate told George to **send** the body home
Would be very, very **expensive** as much as **\$5000.00**

The **Consul** said usually the person **responsible** for the remains
Decides to bury the body in **Jerusalem**, which cost **\$150.00**

George thought about it for **some time**

I don't **care** how much it costs to send her back home. He said.
That's what I **want** to do

The **Consul** said to George **considering** the price difference
You must have **loved** your MIL very much

No, that not it **said** George.

You see, I know of a case **many, many years ago** of a Man

Who was buried **Jerusalem** after **3 days** he rose from the dead
And I just **can't** take that risk with her!

Now for the **George**

The chance of his **Mother-In-Law** rising to life

Was a **risk** he wasn't prepared to take

And many people **today** run the **resurrection risk**

If Jesus **rose** from the dead

Then that would **have to** change **everything!**

For some it's a **risk** they're prepared to take

But if Jesus rose from the dead **doesn't** that change everything?

Shouldn't that change the way we live now?

For **Peter** who claims to be an **eye witness** to the **resurrection**

The answer is a definitive '**yes!**'

The **resurrection** of Jesus changes everything **now!**

- It changes the way we relate to the **World**
- It changes the way we relate to **God**
- And it changes the way we relate to **each other**

The **resurrection of Jesus** means

- We have a gospel to **preach**
- A gospel to **respond to**
- And a **community** to share our lives with

The **resurrection** of Jesus changes **everything!**

And since his **death** on the cross

Jesus **has been** changing everything

3 days later Jesus appeared to the **12** and to **many others**

Instructing them the **Holy Spirit** would come upon them

And in the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**

They'd be his **witnesses**

The 12 would be **witnesses** of the resurrection
In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the Ends of the Earth

When he'd **finished** telling them this
Jesus **ascended** into heaven

Which they also **witnessed** with their own eyes
Before all of them **returned** to Jerusalem

This Easter Sunday as we come to the book of **Acts**
We see the **resurrection** of Jesus **changing everything**

As the promised **Holy Spirit**
Comes upon those gathered in **Jerusalem** at Pentecost

Jews from **every nation** hear the gospel in their **native tongue**

The twelve are **quick** to point out what's happening
Is what God **promised** through the prophet **Joel**

And in **Acts 2:22**
Peter begins to give a **Bible talk** to the crowd

Now if there was ever a time for a **sermon** on the **Holy Spirit**
Then **surely** this would've been it ...

But Peter begins to preach as a **witness** to the resurrection
He says the **resurrection** of Jesus **changes everything**

Jesus is the topic of the sermon at Pentecost! v. 22

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him

Talk about how to **win friends** and **influence people?**

As you know, when I begin a **Bible Talk**
I like to start by saying '**Good Morning**'

Peter does it by **charging** his congregation with **murder!**

Now I've looked through my **college notes** on preaching
And no where does it suggest to call the congregation **murders**

But the **resurrection** of Jesus **changes everything**
Although the Jews **killed** him with the help of wicked men

v. 24 tells us that God **raised** him from the dead
Because death has **no mastery** over him!

Jesus has **risen** from the dead and that **changes everything**

Jesus **is** who he claims to be
His **words** and his **works** show us he's from God

Even the fact the people of Israel **killed** Jesus
Proves that this is what God said **would happen**

Israel **dismissed** Jesus as Messiah by putting him to death
They **disregarded** him as the promised Son of David

But in **raising** Jesus to **life** God **keeps** his promise
From v. 25 Peter's quoting **David** from **Psalm 16**

But the clincher of David & Peter's point is in v. 27
Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let
your Holy One see decay.

God **promised** David the **Holy One** wouldn't stay dead
He promised his body would not **rot** in death

Peter' argues David's Psalm **isn't** about David!
Even David knows he's Psalm **wasn't** about him

You see David died and he's still dead v. 29

"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.

David's **dead!**

His tomb **isn't** empty.

And his body has **rotted away!**

David was talking about **Jesus**

Jesus is the **promised King**

He is the **Messiah**

Jesus is the **Holy One** of God

He wasn't **left for dead** but was **raised** from the dead

And he reigns as **king** forever over God's people

Peter's **bearing witness** to the **resurrection**

He's **seen it** with his own eyes!

Jesus resurrection changes everything v. 32

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

God keeps his **promises**

The **resurrection** of Jesus **changes everything**

So not only do we have **a gospel to proclaim**

But we also have **a response to make**

Listen to Peter's conclusion about Jesus' resurrection v. 36

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Although Jesus **claimed** to be the one sent from the Father

Religious people **murdered** him

But **God** has **vindicated** his claim to be Christ

By his **resurrection** Jesus is declared

To be both **God** and **King**

Thomas **declared** it!

Do you **remember** when Jesus appeared to him?

Stick your **fingers** in my nail holes Tom!

Thomas **declared** "My LORD and My God"

To call Jesus **LORD** is to call him **God**.

To declare Jesus LORD is to say that Jesus is **YHWH**

YHWH is the name Israel called God

The name that Israel was **extremely careful** with

So careful they'd only write the **consonants** and not the vowels

They even called God "**the name**" adonai

To avoid being accused of **blasphemy**

Jesus' name is declared to be the name **above all** names

A place Israel reserved only for **YHWH**

A place **YHWH** only reserved for **YHWH**

You shall have **no other** God's before me

You shall **not take** the **LORD'S** name in vain

But the **resurrection** of Jesus **changes everything**

Jesus name

Is the name **above all** other names

The resurrection **calls** on us to respond!

It not only declares '**Jesus alive**' but changes our lives too

Listen to the response it demands from each of us v. 37

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If Jesus is who he is **declared** to be

And they've **killed** him

Then the blood of the **Messiah** is all over their hands.

Can you see what **religious people** are like?

If they'd **refused** the one in who their hope rests

What hope is now **left** for them?

Rightly the crowd **cry out** asking "**what shall we do?**"

Peter says even now there's **still hope!**

Peter tells them they must **repent**

Now they must **serve** the Saviour

Those **guilty** of his blood

Must now **bow** the knee in submission to him

With their **repentance** and **confession** of Jesus as LORD

Their sins are forgiven

They receive the Holy Spirit

And those gifts are still available **right now**

For all people everywhere who **repent**

But the Gospel **not only** calls on us to repent

The resurrection of Jesus **changes everything**

Jesus' resurrection not only gives us a gospel to **preach**
It not only gives us a gospel to **respond** to

But the resurrection also gives us a **community** to belong to

And it's God who gathers his people for community v. 41

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Those who God **calls** to himself

Repenting of their old views about Jesus

And now **declaring** Jesus to be their LORD
Who **believe** he's the promised Saviour King

They're the **people of God**
That's the **resurrection community**

But what's the **resurrection community** on about?

Well see for yourself v. 42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The **resurrection community** is a devoted community
They're devoted to the **Word of God**

Apostolic preaching is **God's Word** to his Church
And the resurrection community **devotes** themselves to it

God's Word- the Bible sets the Churches agenda

Devotion isn't a word we use much anymore
Most people are **devoted** to not devoting themselves to anything

But the early church was **devoted** to apostolic teaching
They **continued faithfully** in it

But not only were they **devoted** to the Word
But they were also **devoted** to one another

It's a **far cry** from our resurrection community **isn't it?**
Coming along to church when you **feel like it**

So what should a resurrection community look like?

It bears the **likeness** of the one who was raised
It's always **other-person-centred**

Always looking out to the interest of others

Always looking to serve other people and to build others up

Always looking to God to grow his church v. 46

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

It's what **Marx's** utopia and **Communism** dreamed of
Equality not motivated by greed

But only the **resurrection** of Jesus achieved it
It changes **everything**.

As the bulk of the **New Testament** is written to churches
It **shouldn't surprise** us at all

That it's **all about** the resurrection community!

As the Apostles who **watched** Jesus die
Saw Jesus **appear** and **witnessed** his glorious ascension

As they now **wait** for his promised and glorious return
We also **wait** with them

Life between the **Ascension** and the **2nd Coming**
Is all about learning how to live as **the people of God**

Learning how to live in a resurrected community
And Friends, it all starts with **repentance**

We need to **repent**.

We need to repent of our **attitudes** towards Jesus
But more than that of our attitudes towards his **Church**

Jesus **loves** his church it's **precious** to him
Jesus **died** for his Church – this Church

The church is the **expression** of his resurrection
The Church is **much more** than this rain shelter

The church is **people**
God's people **gathered together** around Jesus

We need to repent of our **casual** and **consumer** like attitudes
And start **devoting** ourselves to being **devoted**

I'm not saying you **have to** go to church to **be** a Christian
But **where else** can you be if you're **in** Christ?

There's **no concept** in the NT about being an individual Christian
Being a '**stay-home believer** isn't found anywhere in the Bible

It's great you can listen to my talks **online**
But that's **not** a reason **not** to come and meet with us!

Let's **repent** of this **godless idea** that church **isn't** important!
Or that we'll only come along when we **feel** like!

Or if **nothing else** comes up that's more important or interesting!
Listen nothing is **more important** to God than his Church

Let's make **church** the **priority** it is for God
God who sent his **own dear Son** to die for the church.

And let's start **moving beyond** the facades and the pleasantries
And **actually** start sharing our lives with one another

Let's start **having dinner** with one another
Let's start **inviting others** over for meal

Start thinking about **who** you can invite over for a meal?
Not your friends; but someone you've **not** had much to do with

Let's start **sharing** our lives with our **resurrection community!**

Finally as a resurrection community let's **repent** together
Of all the **other agendas** we have apart from the gospel

Let's **pray** God's Word
Would direct us in **everything** we do together

Let's all be **devoted** to the Word of God
Devoting our lives to **reading** it & **submitting** to its authority

Devoting ourselves to meeting in a **small group**
So that we can be **committed** to God's word and God's people

Let's **start** being in the business of gospel **preaching**
Let's **start** praying together & for one another

Let's **start** calling on neighbours
To **change** their attitudes toward Jesus

Let's **pray** that God would be **adding to his number** here
While we **live together** and **wait together** for his return

And friends, it all starts with **repentance**

The resurrection of Jesus **changes everything**
But is it changing **anything** in you?