

## **THE POWER OF RESURRECTION**

Mt.27:51-61

Jesus was dead. He needed life. All that he had done would be in vain if he did not come back to life. We have the same need today. We need life. We need the power of God in our lives and churches. Without that life all we do is vain. We can preach, teach, sing and witness to no avail. We need his power just to live in these bodies and in this rotten world.

The battle of all creation had taken place at Gethsemane. Here is another battle. A battle of even greater magnitude, the battle to keep him in the grave. If the devil can keep him from rising, he will win.

### 1. **THE SEALED SEPULCHER** v. 62-66

Soldiers come the next day and secure the tomb.

THE SEPULCHER was a cave of sort that had been dug out of solid rock

THE SEAL was a cord that was attached with wax.

THE STONE was a very heavy stone that was placed in a groove that had been carved into the rock. The groove was dug at a descending angle to where the stone rolled down this slope and lodged into place. It would be impossible for one man to roll this stone away.

They were doing all they could to KEEP THEM OUT (v. 64). They didn't think about him getting out.

The devil will do all he can to keep us from getting in on resurrection power.

He couldn't keep Jesus in the tomb but he sure can keep us out. It's amazing how he can keep us from experiencing the power of God in our lives. He is very successful.

### 2. **THE SALVATION SERMON**

What was Jesus doing during the three days and nights his body was in the tomb? Where was he?

Lk. 23:43 "Today---in paradise."

Mt 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The word "heart" literally means "middle".

Ac 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell...

The word "hell" in this verse is the greek word "hades". It literally means, "the place of departed souls".

At that time, there were two compartments. One side of pain / peace.

1 Pe 3:19-20 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah...

Preached across the gulf that is mentioned in Lk.16.

Get the picture, those people in hell are in agony, screaming, weeping. But in the midst of it all there comes a voice with so much authority that all of hell pays attention.

"I know you have been hoping that somehow Lucifer would win and you could be set free. I've come to tell you that (holds up his hands) he has lost. Your destiny is sealed. You're doomed >>>, no hope."

He proclaimed to those who were on the paradise side, "I just wanted to come by and tell you, your deliverance has been won".

Released the imprisoned saints and moved them to heaven.

Eph 4:8 When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Dwelling place of all saved is in third heaven. II Cor.12:2-4 "third heaven / paradise"

SEALED SEPULCHER / SALVATION / SERMON

Go straight to heaven now.

Php 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ...

2 Co 5:6 ...knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2 Co 5:8 ...absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

3. **THE SURPRISED SAINTS** Mt. 28:1-10

They didn't understand his death. They were heart broken. They thought he was gone for good.

They had given their all. They had left everything for him and now, he's dead.

We have same type of problem. We look at things as they seem to be instead of seeing by faith what he can do.

Once they saw him alive, they were never the same. Once they saw his resurrection power it changed them forever.

May the Lord show us that if he has the power to defeat death, he can handle any problem we have.

May God do something to open our eyes to the fact of how powerful he is.

May he do something to surprise us, may he shock us.

We don't need a different preacher / singers / teachers / people. What we need is a preacher--- who is different.

4. **THE SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE**

Jn 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

Heb 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

The tabernacle was built according to the "pattern" God had shown Moses.

I believe Jesus took his blood and applied it to the mercy seat of heaven. His sacrifice was accepted. It satisfied the Father. It was sufficient to pay for my sin.

5. **THE SEATED SAVIOR**

Acts. 1:3-11 Jesus walked with them for 40 days. Then he ascended back to heaven.

Heb 1:3 ...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 10:12 ....after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

His work was finished. No chair in tabernacle. O.T. Priest never sat down.

We can REST in him and the work he accomplished.

There's no need in us getting all upset like we do so much.

He has taken care of our sin. He has taken care of our problems. He has taken care of our battles.

He is there even now to listen to us. To help us.

Give it to him and trust him.