

Easter Sunday!!! (April 5, 2015)

Acts 4:32-37

“Resurrection People”

1. No Resurrection? = No Christian Faith

“If no resurrection...not even Christ has been raised...our preaching is useless...so is your faith...we are then false witnesses about God...your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...the dead in Christ are lost...we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)

“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.” (Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*)

2. Resurrection Is NOT Resuscitation

3. Resurrection = Today! (April 5, AD33)

4. Resurrection = The Church's Message

“With great power the apostles continued to **testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**” (Acts 4:33).

“They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, **proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead**” (Acts 4:2)

“I stand on trial because of **the hope of the resurrection of the dead**” (Acts 23:6)

5. Resurrection = Invitation / New Creation

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

“The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the pioneer of life,' He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. (C.S. Lewis, Miracles, chapter 16)

6. Resurrection = Generosity (Acts 4:32-37)

Generous Atmosphere: “All the believers were one in heart and mind. “

Generous Attitude: “No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.”

Generous Testimony: “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”

Generous Giving: “That there were no needy persons among them...those who owned land or houses sold them...and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph...sold a field he owned...”

7. Resurrection = Easter Testimony