

Sermon: Funny things said at the resurrection!

Reading: Luke 24:36-48

Introduction

Easter is such tremendous season. We are blessed as Easter falls in our season of spring, where we witness creation all around us coming into new life after a season of death and darkness. A beautiful spring morning shouts to the glory of God and proclaims a testimony to the resurrection of the God who created the seasons.

Easter is a season which is filled with new life, hopefulness, joy of what is to come and when we read the scriptures, we find events around the resurrection which are so funny.

Whats so funny?

Pilate who had washed his hands after sentencing Jesus to death utters one of the most futile statements in all of scripture, which looking back now is so funny.

After Jesus body was removed from the cross, having suffered such brutality of crucifixion and thrust through with a Roman spear, his body is wrapped in a burial cloth and laid in a rich mans tomb. Pilate then tells the soldiers to secure the tomb as best they can - Good luck with that one!

No matter how severe the lashing, brutal the beating, cruel the crucifixion, deep the tomb, big the rock, if death could not hold Jesus, there was no way a tomb with a couple of Roman soldiers was going to contain him.

There are many explanations as to why the tomb was empty but none of them stand up to scrutiny when investigated. Jesus not only rose from the grave in a glorious resurrection on the first Easter morning but appeared to many over a period of 40 days. We read a long list of people to whom Jesus appears.

He is hugged outside the tomb by Mary,

Thomas is brought to his knees when he sees the scars

Peter breaks down in tears

John falls to the ground

The disciples share a BBQ on the beach which Jesus had prepared

Jesus' bother James who doubted Jesus sees him and believes (read his letter)

In fact over 500 people saw Jesus at the same time.

Who can dismiss so many testimonies. The stone was moved, the seals broken, the soldiers fled in fear and the grave clothes were left folded - death could not hold him, the grave could not contain him. Hallelujah Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Hallelujah.

Have you ever given any thought to one of the first things Jesus did after his glorious resurrection?

Answer, a Bible study.

Don't believe me! Look at the Scriptures. The third day since the crucifixion, the day of His resurrection, Jesus came alongside two men, Cleopas and his colleague who walking the road to Emmaus. Jesus asks them why they are looking so downcast? (Luke 24:25-27)

Cleopas responded saying, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" This is the second of humorous statements.

How could anyone have missed the events! Not only would the streets filled with jeerers and mourners as Jesus carried the cross, but there was also an eclipse that lasted 3 hours casting the world in darkness and a drop in temperature. Then as Jesus died the whole earth shook so violently that rocks split and graves broke open, and some of those who had died came out of the graves, back to life. (Read Matthews account chapter 27:51-54). No one could have missed any of this! Now that is funny.

Jesus utters the third humorous statement in the scriptures and replies, "What things?"

Cleopas responded by saying we had hoped that Jesus who was a great prophet and powerful before God in word and deed was sentenced to death and we had hoped he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Cleopas had heard that the tomb was empty but didn't believe. (See Luke 24:13-35)

Cleopas was stuck in ignorance and unbelief and as a result was unable to move forward as a Christian in faith. He would never be an effective witness to the Good News in Jesus Christ because he only partially believed. Unless the resurrection of Jesus is understood as the Scriptures had foretold he would only ever live a half life, a nominal Christian, not born again.

Like so many people today who believe Jesus was only a prophet, a good man or a good teacher and live out their lives doing good works, will not experience the new birth promised to those who by faith repent and believe Jesus as their Lord and Saviour for the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection from the dead.

Just think about it!

If one of the first thing Jesus did was to open up the scriptures after his resurrection, don't you think we should be making Bible studies a priority? Wouldn't you have loved to have been in that Bible study with Jesus, what an amazing experience that would have been.

Jesus beginning with Moses, the Psalms and Prophets opened up the scriptures to them explaining what had to take place as they walked along the road. When Cleopas realised who was leading the Bible study they were astounded and said, 'Didn't our hearts burn within us when he opened up the scriptures to us?'

So excited were these two men, they had now become true Christians, born again believers, that they ran back to Jerusalem, witnessed to Jesus resurrection proclaiming that Jesus is alive. Now thats good news.

This same Jesus who

Born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger

Worked at the carpenters bench and lathe

Amazing the world with his miracles for 3 years

Astounded the people with his teaching

Loved by sinners and hated by hypocrites

Adored by the poor and feared by the powerful

Eyes filled with tears of compassion for the oppressed

Eyes which blaze against oppressors
Hands that fed the hungry
Passion that overturned the tables of the greedy
His words sweeter than honey and sharper than a two edged sword

Thomas looked at the scars for proof of the crucifixion
Jesus Invited him to touch and see it is true, i am no ghost
Jesus eats fish and breaks bread

This same Lord Jesus is with us now. What have we to fear? Is Covid 19 or any other kind of pestilence, disease, or darkness of this world greater than the one who conquered death. No of course not, so what have we to fear?

Consider what Jesus told the first Christians...

“This is what I told you while I was with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms”.
(Luke 24:44)

“This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.....”
(Luke 24:46)

What did Jesus teach Cleopas in that Bible study. Check out these for yourself and hold your own bible study today.

Creation:

Gen 1:1 - 3 The beginning of everything
Gen 1:26-31 The beginning of mankind
Gen 3:1-4 The Fall
Gen 12:1-3 The calling of Abram

Covenants

Exo 20:1 Covenant in law - The Ten Commandments
Jer 31:31 New Covenant

Crucifixion

Gen 22: - Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac - Ram provided with head stuck in thorn bush

Exo 12 - Passover Lamb, blood covers the Israelites

Lev 17:11 - Blood offering for atonement -

For the life of a creature is in the blood and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the alter, its the blood that makes atonement for ones life

Psalm 22 - They gambles for his clothes

Isa 53 - Suffering servant - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Jesus has already said to Peter about the rock on which he will build his church.....

Church

Isaiah 44: 3-4 - For I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your descendants

Ezekiel 11:19 - I will give them an undivided heart and put a new Spirit in them. I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws

Joel 2:28 - And afterwards I will pour out my Spirit on all people.....

It is true that many will mock the gospel and as Paul says himself....

Paul says,

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
(1Cor 1:18)

The resurrection

Not Reincarnation
Not Resuscitation
But resurrection

Jesus died and was buried and rose again on the third day as according to scriptures.....

This same Jesus was the one who appeared to the disciples in that locked room and it is this same Jesus who one day
Every eye will see
Every knee shall bow
Every tongue confess

Read 1 Corinthians 15:

Summary

The resurrection of Jesus is important for several reasons. First, the resurrection witnesses to the immense power of God Himself.

To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God.

In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us of His absolute sovereignty over life and death and provides irrefutable proof that He is the Saviour of the world.

Jesus said,

“I am the resurrection and the life”
(John 11:25),

Hallelujah Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Hallelujah. Amen