

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

Everybody Rises From The Dead

TEXT: John 5:28-29

INTRODUCTION: For weeks now we have been exploring what Jesus said then and now. On the very day when our attention is naturally focused on the resurrection we are going to examine what Jesus Himself had to say about the resurrection.

What Jesus said then surprised many of His hearers,

- **some because they did not believe in the resurrection.**
- **others because they did not understand the resurrections.**

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

What Jesus said still surprises many people,

- **some because they do not believe in the resurrection.**

If you are one of those, I implore you to listen closely to both what Jesus says and what else God says in His Word, because it is impossible to believe that Jesus is God's Son and/or that the Bible is true, and not believe in the resurrection.

- **others because they do not understand the resurrections.**

But many of you do already believe in the resurrection, or at least believe in Jesus' resurrection. But do you understand that you will be resurrected? Do you understand that both believers and unbelievers will be resurrected?

I. FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE REALITY OF RESURRECTION

A. What does resurrection mean?

1. To understand resurrection, we must understand death.
2. **Death is a separation of the physical body from the soul and the spirit.**

3. When a person dies, their soul and spirit remain joined, but they leave the body in which they lived.
 - a. The soul and spirit of those who have trusted Christ immediately go to heaven. That is why Paul said,

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- b. The soul and spirit of those who have not trusted Jesus as Lord immediately go to hell. That is why Jesus said of the lost man who died,
- Luke 16:23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

- c. **Resurrection is the reunification of the soul and spirit with the body.**
 - d. **Because the old body is decayed or completely destroyed, it must be made into a new body for the soul and spirit to inhabit it again.**

That is what Paul is explaining in the great chapter on resurrection, 1 Cor. 15.

1 Corinthians 15

22 For as in Adam **all die**, even so in Christ **all shall be made alive**. 23 But each one in his own order...

Notice, all die and all are made alive again – resurrected. It is not just those who are in Christ, it is that by Christ, because of Christ, all are resurrected. As Jesus Himself said, “All who are in the graves shall come forth.” They do not all rise at the same time, but eventually everybody gets resurrected!

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Resurrection is the reunification of the soul and spirit with the new resurrection body.

B. So **How do we know the resurrection is real?**

1. **We know because Jesus rose bodily from the dead.**

C. This was not some mystical resurrection.

1. **Not a resurrection of memory**

2. **... or hope**

3. **... or idea**

4. **... or concept**

D. **Jesus rose bodily from the dead.** He came alive. He walked, talked, ate. He lived. He still lives. He is alive!

E. **God had the fact of Jesus' resurrection carefully documented in history.**

1. **The religious establishment** who could not get Him to knuckle under their system of man-made controls **took Jesus through a series of trials, witnessed His death, and warned of the promise of His resurrection.**

2. A **government** who feared Him officially **certified His death and guaranteed that a resurrection could not be faked by securing the tomb with a guard.**

3. **God Himself** timed the crucifixion so that **Jerusalem** would be **filled with witnesses** who had gathered from all over the world for the Passover Feast. **Thousands** of them **witnessed** the trial before Pilate and **Jesus' death** upon the cross.

4. More than **500 people** of the common folk of the land **saw Jesus alive** after He had been placed stone cold dead in a borrowed tomb.

5. Let me tell you about one that we might call "an unusual witness." His name is Joseph, **Joseph of Arimathea**. All four of the gospels tell of his involvement. They tell us he was a **rich man**, which means that he had a lot to lose by believing in this Jesus. He also was a **member of the Sanhedrin**, but he did not vote to put Jesus to death. He, like Nicodemus, **had become a believer** and had trusted Jesus as Lord and Master. So after Jesus was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea **asked Pilate for Jesus' body, and buried the Savior in a tomb** he had had carved out for himself. Now, this little known man actually becomes one of the most outstanding witnesses of the reality of the resurrection of Jesus because...

a. **If Jesus had not really been dead, Joseph would have known.** He prepared Jesus' body for burial.

b. **If the disciples had stolen Jesus' body out from under the noses of sleeping guards, Joseph would have known.** He was still a member of the Sanhedrin and privy to the lie they told to Pilate to try to hide the fact of Jesus' resurrection.

- c. **If the body of Jesus remained in his tomb, Joseph would have known.** The tomb belonged to him. He could come and go as he liked. He would have recognized the claim to the lordship of Christ was a hoax because the body was still there.
- d. **But Joseph remained a disciple of Jesus.** When every gospel writer sited this member of the Sanhedrin as a witness, if Joseph had not remained a follower of Christ, the unbelieving Jews would have thrust him forward to contradict the claims of resurrection. But they didn't. They couldn't! Because **Joseph of Arimathea was present for the whole event, and he was an eyewitness of Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead!**

So, when we talk about resurrection, for Jesus or for us, we are not talking metaphysics and philosophy. We are talking reality. When a person is resurrected, their soul and spirit are reunited with a new living body.

The resurrection is real.

And listen now to this...

II. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE RESURRECTIONS

A. Everyone gets raised from the dead.

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

I know that you who are in Christ because you have put your faith in the One who died upon the cross for your sins are rejoicing at the certain prospect of your own resurrection. The words of the old hymn are reality for you "Now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save." Or you hum with delight the newer song "I Can Only Imagine" as you look forward to an eternity with Christ following your resurrection from the dead.

But you who have no such certainty, listen to me. Whether it be because you have previously rejected Christ, or because you have not heard of His death for your sins and the opportunity for you to trust Him and receive the gift of eternal life, or because you have procrastinated in responding to the gracious invitation of the Savior, whatever the reason, listen to me.

Death for you will not be oblivion. You will not cease to exist. You will not be in a state of suspended animation or blissful unconsciousness. As the soul and spirit of those who have trusted in Christ go immediately to heaven to await the resurrection of their bodies, so the soul and spirit of those without Christ go immediately to hell to await the resurrection of their bodies also.

That's what Jesus is saying. "All who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth." Some to the resurrection of life. Others to the resurrection of condemnation. But everybody gets raised from the dead!

And as Jesus said...

B. There are two resurrections.

- 1. The Resurrection of Life** The Resurrection of Life is also called the First Resurrection (Rev. 20:6).
- 2. The Resurrection of Condemnation** The Resurrection of Condemnation is the Second Resurrection.
- 3. What determines which resurrection you are a part of?**

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Maybe someone is thinking, "I knew it was because of works and not by grace!" Well, you better study a little more carefully and see what Jesus calls good works.

John 6:28–29 28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

CONCLUSION: How crystal clear Jesus makes it.

- **Everybody dies.**
- **Everybody gets resurrected.**
- **Those who trust Jesus as Savior and Lord shall be resurrected to live with Him forever.**
- **Those who will not trust Him shall be cast in their imperishable bodies into the Lake of Fire.**

John 3:16–18 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.