

Today, Christians around the world are celebrating this special day, the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many different denominations; Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox. Under those categories, we have so many different names; and under the same name of the denominations, there are so many churches with different theological and cultural backgrounds; but no matter who they are and no matter where they live on the planet, this is the day that brings us together as Christians. We are here to celebrate, commemorate, and remind ourselves of the historical event that changed the world completely.

Jesus Christ died on the cross; they killed him; they crucified him; he was dead; just like any other human beings who died before him and after, Jesus died; he was among the dead; he was buried just like other people; he was dead.

But that was not all; that was not the end of the story; that was not what we are here for; we are here because he rose again; he came back to life from the dead; he was lifted up; he was raised; he became alive and he is alive. He is alive; he lives; and he lives forever.

Death could not hold him; death could not swallow him up; the power of darkness could not win; Jesus won; life won out; hope won out; love won out!

What would you say if you were asked this question? And the question is: "Why Do You Need The Resurrection?"

Why Do You Need The Resurrection?" Yesterday, one of the people who came to the Memorial Service here in the church said, "I am a Christian, but I am not sure about the resurrection thing."

Sure, I appreciate that he was honest. I know there are people who have been Christian all their lives but struggle with this issue.

How would you explain? If the resurrection is needed, why is it? Why is it important?

I came across a website which has a list of people’s responses to that question. Why Do I Need The Resurrection?

Amy Julia Becker (Princeton, NJ) says:

Shower, breakfast, kids to school, myself to work, go running, make dinner, kids to bed, check email, sleep... It's easy to forget.

But after the earthquake in Haiti, I need the resurrection.

In the sorrow and the joy, the resurrection reminds me: goodness will last, light overcomes darkness, life triumphs over death.

Kara Root (Minneapolis, MN) says:

I need the Resurrection because my sister is sick and can't afford insurance; I need the Resurrection because I've told a crying Haitian mom, "No, I can't take your son home with me."

I need the Resurrection Because evil is so pervasive and I participate.

I need the Resurrection because it promises that in the end all wrongs are made right. Death loses. Hope triumphs. And Life and Love Prevail.

As I stand here before you, I do not want to give you what scholars talk about the resurrection. The time is too precious for that; I don't care what other people say; it does not really matter what other people SAY; For me, the resurrection is the real thing. I want to show you what I believe and what I know from my own experience. I met Christ

personally; I met him when I was in college and since then he has never left me alone. He did change my life; he was real to me; there was no confusion on my part—when I met him, I couldn’t resist—I had to follow him. I had to.

He made me happy then; he makes me happy now. I was not stupid then; I am not stupid now. His love and promise are too real and vivid that I cannot say No to him.

It is real; it is too good to be true not to say Yes to him;

30 years ago, I said to myself, I would do anything for Jesus; that was not only important to me; that was also the only way I could live a happy life; that was the only way I thought I would live a true life.

Have I changed since then? Do I have any second thought NOW?

No, not a thing; Jesus has been good all the way through; God has been faithful even if I was not; I cannot change my thought; I cannot change my plan; I cannot change the course... I will do what I promised to do; I will die for him.

“I have met the risen Christ”—that is what Peter says in Acts.

“I have seen the Lord”—that is what Mary Magdalene says in John’s Gospel today. And let me tell you: I have seen and met the Lord myself.

A minister said, "If you can't preach on Easter, you just can't preach!"

I think that is an important statement; I truly believe that.

The resurrection is the reason we are here as Christians, not just today but every Sunday; without the resurrection, there would be no church; without the resurrection, there would be no justice; without the resurrection, there would be no hope at all in this violent world.

He is Lord; death could not defeat Him; the love of God could not be defeated by the power of the world.

Jesus won; he is alive; he lives forever; and those of us who believe in him will too.

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David Lose is a professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. And in a blog called [workingpreachers.org](http://workingpreachers.org), he and his people put up one of the most interesting/powerful video on YouTube. He says,

Easter is coming. But for many of us, this is not the ultimate reality. There is too much pain and suffering in the world today. Death has the last word. It would therefore be foolish to say that the life and death of a first-century Jew named Jesus makes a difference.

Why? Might makes right. Power is superior to compassion and Despair is stronger than hope. So I refuse to believe that a man can come back from the dead. Sometimes, the most important facts are the hardest to accept. Resurrection is a false hope. How can you say an empty tomb changes everything. Don't you see “God loves the world” is a lie? “Money is God” and “the one who dies with the most toys wins.”

I will tell you what I tell my children: “There is no more to this world than what you can see, hold, and buy.” “There is no mystery in everyday life, and there is nothing sacred about ordinary things and people. Many of us simply do not believe that God can give life to the dead, bring light from the darkness, and create something out of nothing.

But what if the testimony of the women at the tomb was true?

Then....,

“Love Conquers Death,” Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Easter 2010; Albany UMC

God can give life to the dead, bring light from the darkness, and create something out of nothing.

Many of us simply do not believe that “there is no mystery in everyday life, and there is nothing sacred about ordinary things and people” and “there is mystery in everyday life, and there is something sacred about ordinary things and people

I will tell you what I tell my children: “The one who dies with the most toys wins and “Money is God,” is a lie. An empty tomb did change everything in history.

It is the love of God that wins, not the power of darkness.

Love prevails.

Amen.