

BEHOLDING HIS GLORY

John 1:1,14

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
April 24, 2011 ♦ Easter Sunday Sermon

One GLORIOUS event in history changed the world forever. The resurrection of JESUS. This Easter, we visit a cemetery, a place of mourning and gaze at empty tomb, ... catch glimpse of God's glory and experience inexpressible joy. And through belief, we come alive spiritually, cleansed, healed and confident that resurrection has already come, and is coming.

Listen as I read **John 20:1-18**. Easter story as told by John, eyewitness to the resurrection.

John is unnamed, faster disciple, who was running SPRINTING to find out if what he had heard was true. Out of breath, John stands on the threshold of burial chamber, Peter arrives and bursts into the tomb. John then enters, he could see for himself; confessing that he saw and believed.

John's wrote his gospel (biography of Jesus life), because his life had been forever changed by his encounters with the glory of God.

- John had seen Jesus glory in the miracles ... there in Cana when Jesus turned water to wine. Seen Him heal the sick and restore sight to the blind ... the lame could walk, the deaf could hear.
- John had seen Jesus glory in the resurrection of Lazarus ... "I am the resurrection and the life".
- John had seen Jesus glory on the Mt. or Transfiguration, face to the ground.
- Now the empty tomb, the grave clothes folded, lying there where Jesus had once laid.

John wrote his letters, because he wanted those who believed to know the power of resurrection. He had entered the empty tomb; he knew Jesus was alive ... and he just couldn't keep it to himself.

1 John 1:3 ... We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Up to the very end of his life, we find him SPRINTING to share the story, determined to bear witness; such an experience not meant to be hoarded, meant to be shared.

Please open your Bibles to **John 1. Page 750.**

No BIRTH NARRATIVE (Matthew & Luke) ... John's gospel begins with a declaration of Glory and crescendos in the description of Jesus resurrection and appearance to those who followed Him. Glorious new beginning (Genesis). One person (birth, death, resurrection. coming) would change History.

Quote ... **"in the beginning was the Word and the word was with God and the word was God." v. 14**
"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

What John saw in the tomb changed His life, and the course of history forever. Jesus was not there ...

Another eyewitness to the glory of resurrected Christ, Apostle Paul, tells us why Easter is BIGGEST DAY

Please turn in your Bibles to **1 Corinthians 15 page 815. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.**

Then in **v. 17 "And if Christ had not been raise, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins."**

Why is resurrection such a BIG DEAL? ... because of what it proves about Jesus.

1. **Resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God. Romans 1:4 (NIV84) "... and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."**

2. Resurrection proves Jesus will forever be God in the flesh ... still has a body. *Ephesians 1:19b,20* "That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,"
3. Resurrection proves Jesus is the source of resurrection for all who believe ... the 1st born / 1st fruit of the resurrection. *1 Corinthians 15:22,23* For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Why is resurrection such a BIG DEAL? ... because of what it proves about Jesus.

Why is resurrection such a BIG DEAL? ... because with it there is hope for us.

1. Resurrection means we can have a relationship with Jesus.

Impossible to have a relationship with someone who is DEAD.

Ill. Dead ... NC woman kept mother's corpse for 8 months before death was reported. 4 family members.

Impossible to have a relationship with someone who is PLASTIC.

Ill. Lars and the Real Girl. Might be easier to relate to someone who isn't alive.

Ill. Man who knelt before his dishwasher in the kitchen. Because Jesus is alive.

Ill. Do I have to believe in resurrection to be a Christian? What's the point?

2. Resurrection means we can have an advocate in heaven who is always interceding for us.

Ill. Whenever you are in trouble you ask people to pray; most imp. Jesus is praying.

Heb 7:23-25 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

That is how He has been changing the world for the past 2000 years, through prayer.

3. Resurrection means we can have the full measure of His Spirit to empower us.

Ill. How must a Caterpillar feel? Green worm, crawling around eating holes in foxgloves. Butterfly soar.

TRANSFORMED ... Holy Spirit is power of resurrection. Resurrection power now. Hearts alive. Not meant to know about it or believe in it, but to experience it.

Ill. Over and over again, God has resurrected me. 25 lives. Abbotsford BC. Worship conference. God moved, God spoke, I desperately needed it. Theology didn't change, my heart did.

When Jesus says to Martha in Jn 11:25, "Whoever lives and believes in me will never die," not a metaphor or some vague hope. It means that death has no power over you. Guilt cannot separate you from God. Whatever bad news you face, if you have knelt in the kitchen, you have an advocate interceding, you have the full measure of resurrection power right now

- If your health is frail, almost gone, TERMINAL you don't have to live in fear. **You have a resurrection coming.** Ill. Eric Dickason.
- If your spouse has left you, and you feel betrayed and alone, you don't have to live like a loser. **You have a resurrection coming.** Ill. We have personally experienced the resurrection of our marriage
- If you are the frightened parents of a depressed or rebellious child, you don't have to live burdened by this weight of blame. **You have a resurrection coming.**
- If you are an anxious worker who has lost their job, needing a job, **you have a resurrection coming.**
- If you are a guilt-ridden addict hiding in the shadows, **you have a resurrection coming.**
- If you are lonely and longing to be loved, **you have a resurrection coming.**
- If your spiritual life is shrinking and shriveling, **you have a resurrection coming.**

Whoever you are, if you have taken the all-important step of faith, you are living in a new reality. Jesus is alive and His power has been given to you.

Gazing in the empty tomb. Beholding His Glory. Giving praise and honor and worship to Him.