

#3048 0409 23A [Easter Sunday]

Jesus left Heaven to visit our world because He *loves* the world—and everyone in it. The Messiah came to save our soul from the wrath that is coming.

John 13:1 "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." That is the example He set us and the command He gave us.

Our Savior showed His love that Easter morning—John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

The lyrics tell us: v_{s3} "See, from His head, His hands, His feet—Sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet; Or thorns compose so rich a crown? v_{s2} Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His Blood!"

The apostle said 1 Corinthians 15:3 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

That was the *focus* of everything the apostle said and did—the resurrection of His Lord—it *impacted* his entire life from that moment.

The apostle added: 1 Corinthians 15:13 "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

We never want our *teaching* or our *faith* to be in vain or of no value and purpose. The *Truth* and our *faith* are to be the *main* purpose of our life and are of *eternal* value.

1 Corinthians 15:19 "If in this present life we have a hope resting on Christ, and nothing more, we are more to be pitied than all the rest of the world. 20 But, in reality, Christ has risen from among the dead, being the first to do so of those who are asleep."

When our Savior Mark 15:37 "*Breathed his last,*" the veil of the Temple was torn in two. Some graves of the faithful were opened and they walked around Jerusalem.

Many were amazed—now they *knew* Jesus *was* the Son of God. He was *born* to *die*—for the *sins* of the *world*. He had been falsely accused, which led to His death on a cross—all foretold in Psalms.

Jesus was placed in a *tomb* after *dying* for the *sins* of the *world*. The Father sends an angel to stand in an *empty* tomb. Now we know that *our Redeemer lives!* He *conquered* death for all who will *believe* on Him for the *saving of their soul*.

Jesus always *showed* the *love* He has for the world—and *that* love *we* are to show toward everyone else while we are on earth.

Jesus meets Mary at the tomb after He appeared to other women who had already left. He walked with two disciples on the way to Emmaus. 1 Corinthians 15:5 "He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep." 7 "After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

All had *seen* and *talked* and *walked* with the risen Savior—no turning back now. They are convinced that they *have* to be faithful to the end. None would have any excuse to live any other way.

The Lord's salvation plan is always *available* and *visible* for the world to *see* and *believe* and *live*—and if they did, they would escape the wrath that is fast approaching.

Jesus gives last instructions to His disciples— Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Jesus *cares* for them and He *loves* them so much, that He promises to send to them the *Comforter*. He promises to *never* leave them alone—although we often *feel* alone at times—we know that we are *never* alone—His Spirit is *in* us and *with* us—alway.

Even with all of these promises, many soon forgot and walked away from the path of faith and trust He taught and showed them.

The Messiah came to visit His people and to *save* their *soul*. Many Jews *saw* Him; *spoke* with Him; and *watched* Him perform miracle after miracle—and those who *believed* Him, met *with* Him after the resurrection.

Now they *know* that all He said came *true*; there can be no turning back and no turning away from the life of faith that He *called* them to live— *Come, follow Me*, in faith, love, humility, and daily trust on the Father for every aspect of life.

Jesus then ascends into Heaven while a faithful group watch in amazement! Acts 1:9 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

His work on earth was finished, so He returns to *Heaven*. He did all that the Father wanted Him to do—*gave* His life and *shed* His Blood for the sins of the world. Every sin ever committed by anyone at any time, has now been *paid for in full*!

The question—*What* will the world *do* with that information! And time has spoken—they will *ignore*, *reject*, and *doubt* what He did for them.

Nothing else is needed to be *right* with God but a *choice* on *our* part to *believe* in the One God sent. It is the one *requirement* to enter an eternal kingdom. John 6:28 "What are we to do in order to carry out the things that God requires?" Jesus said: 29 "This is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."

Now we all have a choice to *believe* and *accept* the gift of His Spirit. His divine power is available to every *believer*—through the *sacrifice* and atoning *Blood* of our Messiah. God approved of His offering by bringing Him back to life.

The choice now is to place our faith in the resurrection power of God—because we *believe* what that Atonement for sin *accomplished* for us.

The choice is to put out *faith* in that resurrection power; or to put our *faith* in what the *world* does—in drugs and medical treatments that often result in a *worse* condition. There is only *one* choice that leads to life—it is trust on the power of *God* by *faith* in the Blood of Jesus.

God is still with us; John 14:18 "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you," and He is ready to do great things for us—if we are willing to put faith in the Atonement sacrifice of His Son. Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit"—Who inspires faith in us.

Jesus said to not be troubled John 14:1 "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Believing God means trusting on His resurrection power—to heal our body; to provide our food; to protect our family; and to prepare us for Heaven.

The Holy Spirit inspires faith *in* us to trust on the power of God for all those things—including inner peace, avenging wrongs, and every other faith issue—without trusting any*thing* else, any*one* else, or any other *plan* of the world for those things.

When we accept Christ as our *Savior*, and when we believe on the power that is in back of His *name*, we become a child of God.

John 1:12 "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on [trust in] his name." To believe in the Name of Christ, is to trust on the power of God that brought Him back to life.

When God answers prayer for *healing*, *money*, *protection*, spiritual *light*, or for anything *else*, all glory goes to Him. When Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, some were offended. If they had believed *Christ*, they would have glorified *God*.

Jesus said John 5:23 "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." They had not met the basic requirement—John 6:29.

The Word of God was not in them, so the Spirit of God could not inspire them to believe and glorify God. Jesus said John 5:37-38 "None of you have ever either heard His voice or seen what He is like. Nor have you His word dwelling within you, for you refuse to believe Him whom He has sent."

Believing *in* and trusting *on* the resurrection power of God leads to eternal life in Heaven. We are told to John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"—Scripture like 1 Corinthians 15:4 "He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

To believe that He *rose* to life on the third day, is to *trust* in faith on His resurrection power every day! John 3:18 "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."

We must *understand* and *believe* what God's divine power will do if we will trust Him in faith. John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

No one has to *remain* in spiritual darkness because anyone can be *enlightened* to know how important it is to *believe*; to *commit* our life to God; to follow His *training* program of spiritual faith lessons; and to *remain* in that position of trust.

It is the *living hope* we have of entering an *eternal paradise. Anyone* can change—and since God *cannot* change—He is always willing to *for-give* when we are willing to *repent*—and *then* trust on the *risen Messiah for the saving of our soul!*



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