

## ALIVE: HE IS RISEN

*ALIVE together Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

March 31, 2024

**INTRO.:** Good morning and welcome to our Easter series: **ALIVE!** As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are reminded: He is risen! (He is risen indeed) Two weeks ago we began the series with Adam & Eve, way back in the book of Genesis. They were **ALIVE in the beginning**, created without a sin nature, the ability to obey God or disobey God. They had the best-case scenario in the Garden of Eden and still they sinned and experienced separation from God. Yet, God promised a deliverer in Genesis 3:15.

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Last week, on Palm Sunday, the theme was **ALIVE: RSVP**; what is my response to Jesus Christ. As Jesus entered Jerusalem on the colt, people laid down palm branches and their coats in an act of worship. Yet, how many really understood what Jesus came to do? Many were looking for Messiah to overthrow the Roman government, not remembering from the Old Testament that Messiah would come the first time to suffer and die for their sins (and, praise God, for our sins). Less than a week later some from this same crowd would be yelling, “Crucify Him!!” The religious leaders were unwilling to admit that Jesus was the Messiah, they rejected Him and commanded Him to quiet the crowd. Others did not recognize Him as the Messiah. All of these responses we see today. On Good Friday, Pastor Paul spoke about the death of Jesus Christ. He was **ALIVE then dead**. It was a Good Friday for us, but not for Jesus, as He bore our sins on the cross. We see the testimony of the Father, there was darkness over the land in the middle of the day as Jesus took the darkness of our sin. We have the testimony of Jesus as He felt the pain of the separation from the Heavenly Father in bearing our sins. “MY God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” As Jesus died, the veil that was between God and us was torn in two, there was an earthquake, rocks split, and dead people were raised from the grave, a foreshadowing of the resurrection of the dead who are in the Christ. The centurion, who was guarding Jesus, gave testimony of Jesus, exclaiming, “Surely he was the Son of God!” What is your testimony?

As we begin this message this morning, **ALIVE together**, I am reminded of the following situation. Have you ever set up an appointment with somebody, only to get there and be told, “He/she is not here.” You are disappointed. Maybe you go to a friend’s house to surprise them, and nobody answers the door because they’re not there. Disappointment again. Unfortunately, at times I have been the person providing the disappointment. I have set up an appointment with somebody and completely forgotten about it. I didn’t put it on my calendar, or I failed to look at my calendar. Years ago, when I was a youth pastor, area youth pastors/youth workers would gather monthly for prayer and encouragement. One of the youth pastors was leaving to take another ministry out of the area. I planned a going away luncheon at an area restaurant and I took seriously the task of reminding people to attend. The day for this special event came and went. The next morning, I woke up, sat up in bed, and realized I had forgotten to be there: I was the MC. I remember, almost yelling, please tell me it’s not Thursday today because the event was on Wednesday.

As the women approached the grave of Jesus, saw the stone rolled away, the angel said them these four words, maybe the greatest four words ever uttered. I couldn’t get my mind off these four words. For these women, and for every one of us, we can thank God for these four words, **“HE IS NOT HERE.”**

We’re going to begin by looking at the setting, then the following three words: Why, Remember, and Tell. So, let’s first read the Scripture from the Gospel of Luke together.

**Luke 23:55–24:12** The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## THE SETTING

Joseph, of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, the religious council, was a man who had not agreed with the decision and action (falsely accused, wrongly convicted, and illegally sentenced) to crucify Jesus.

**Mark 15:43** Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

So, he went to Pilate, asking for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that the body be given him. When granted permission, he took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in a new tomb which he had cut out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). Then he rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. (blank slide)

Luke speaks of the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee and how they followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how he had laid Jesus. They went home to prepare spices and perfumes to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. In obedience to the commandments, they rested on the Sabbath. This had to be one of the longest and darkest Sabbaths that had ever occurred. Very early the next morning the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared.

By the way, where were the men? They had deserted Jesus and were in hiding. One had even denied knowing Him three times! In Jewish society of the day women held an inferior position but Jesus elevates their position in appearing to them first. They had been devoted to Jesus and would be witnesses to His being beaten, being placed on the cross, dying an agonizing death (suffocated as He tried to raise Himself up on the cross to breathe), taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb.

So, they go to the tomb, with burial spices, expecting to find what? They expect to find the body of Jesus. In fact, on the way to the tomb, they are discussing how they are going to get this huge rock moved from in front of the tomb. It has been estimated it might have weighed upwards of two tons. You can imagine their surprise to see the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Then, two men, in clothes that gleamed like lightning (better than Tide detergent), stood beside them. Have you ever been startled by somebody coming up behind you? When I'm running, and about to pass somebody (which doesn't happen very often these days), I try to give them a warning, so they aren't startled. These two angels startle these women to the point where they fall down on the ground face first. They are totally frightened. This is the setting which leads to the first word.

### **WHY**

In this question there is a bit of a mild rebuke.

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

What were these angelic messengers telling them? These women were not expecting the tomb to be empty. Their first thought would be, "Who took His body? Where have they laid Him?" They had already lost Jesus to death, and now His body is gone! How much worse can it get? After asking this question, the angels make two statements. These two statements change everything. Are you ready?

He is not here.

What do you mean, He is not here? When we left, we saw Joseph put Him in this tomb. We know that dead people can't walk. Before they can get the question out, "Where is He?", the angels provide the next statement.

He is risen. (He is risen indeed)

This announcement contains the greatest seven words ever spoken! Their disappointment and grief in not finding Jesus in the tomb are totally turned around. Thank God for the words, "He is not here." Hallelujah for the next three words, "He is risen." Do you and I totally understand the significance of these words?

The word, "*risen*," is in the passive tense. God the Father rose Jesus from the dead. The grave could not hold Him. The Scriptures promised His body would not see decay. He could not have remained in the tomb.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

**Romans 6:9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

**Revelation 1:18** I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Not only why, but

### **REMEMBER**

The angels ask a question followed by a command.

**Luke 24:6-7** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'

Jesus had predicted several times that He would be not just killed, but crucified and on the third day be raised again.

**Luke 9:21-22** Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

**Luke 18:31-34** Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. **33** On the third day he will rise again." The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

**Mark 8:31-33** He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

**Mark 9:30-32** They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

**Mark 10:32-34** They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, **34** who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Why is the resurrection so important? If Jesus is not raised, then He is a liar or maybe just a lunatic. He clearly teaches that He will not only be crucified but that He will rise from the dead. There is NO Christianity without the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

The Apostle Paul tells us that without the resurrection our faith is worthless! This is not some miniscule doctrine. It's not optional. We're wasting our time here if Jesus has not been raised. He has been raised! There is no argument among skeptics that the tomb is empty. The question is, "Where is His body?" They are many eyewitnesses to His resurrection.

(From John MacArthur's commentary) Scripture records at least ten distinct appearances of Christ between the resurrection and the ascension:

- 1) Mary Magdelene (Jn 20:11-18)
- 2) Other women who had been at the tomb (Mt 28:8-10)
- 3) Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-32)
- 4) Peter (Lk 24:34)
- 5) Ten of the remaining 11 disciples (Lk 24:36-43; Jn 20:19-25)
- 6) Seven of the apostles on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1-25)
- 7) More than 500 disciples, probably on a mountain in Galilee (1 Cor 15:7)
- 8) James (1 Cor 15:7)
- 9) Apostles when He ascended to heaven (Acts 1:3-11)
- 10) Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9)
- 11) Several subsequent occasions (Acts 18:9; 22:17-18; 23:11)

If there is no resurrection, not only is our faith futile (worthless), but we are also still in our sins and under the rightful judgment and condemnation of God.

**1 Corinthians 15:17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

**Luke 24:8** Then they remembered his words.

This highlights the importance of knowing the Word of God! Followers of Jesus must be students of God's Word!! What was the response of the women after this interaction with the angels?

We have seen the question by the angels (Why do you seek the living among the dead?), their command (Remember), and now we come to the women's response:

### **TELL**

**Luke 24:9-10** When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

They couldn't wait to tell all these things to the eleven (Judas had already hung himself and a replacement had not yet been chosen). Jesus had conquered sin and death. He is risen (He is risen indeed). How am I doing in telling others about the resurrection and salvation available only through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection?

Note the response of the disciples.

**Luke 24:11-12** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

They were unwilling to believe. This is also one of the proofs of the resurrection. The women came to the tomb expecting to find the body of Jesus and the disciples couldn't believe that Jesus had been raised. The resurrection isn't something they had imagined. They didn't even have any hope of this happening. They each had to have the resurrection proven to them. They had to be convinced. Thomas wasn't going to believe without seeing Jesus first.

**John 20:24-25** Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

We often give Peter a hard time. He tried to tell Jesus that Jesus couldn't die. Three times he denied he even knew Jesus. We give him a hard time when, after getting out of the boat, to walk toward Jesus, he looks back and begins to sink. He got out of the boat! When the women came and announced Jesus' resurrection, he ran to the tomb. We know that John also ran to the tomb. I think many of us can identify with Peter. I am so encouraged with the detail that Mark shares in his gospel about what the angel says.

**Mark 16:7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

Peter's life was radically changed through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. After the ascension of Christ as recorded in the book of Acts we read of how he boldly preached the message of the gospel.

**Acts 2:22-24** "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Every person who comes to faith in Christ has a story to tell. We heard three of those stories in the SonRise service. If you missed it, check it out on Facebook or YouTube. We need to tell our story to others, the story of Jesus Christ.

### **SO WHAT???**

Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, conquering sin and death so, too, can you and I be made alive through turning from our sin, seeking God's forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Christ, giving our life to Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

\*Do I have this eternal hope?

ALL true followers of Jesus have this eternal hope, a sure hope, of being resurrected as well, being with the Lord for eternity. Not only do we have this future hope, but we, who were once dead spiritually, have been made alive through Christ. We don't have to live like we did before! Through the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers, we have power over sin.

\*Am I living like I'm alive?

God has given us everything we need!

**2 Peter 1:3-4** His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. The angels asked the women at the tomb this question, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" I would ask each of us, "Why do I live like I am in the tomb when Jesus has made me alive?"

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

The angels command the women to remember what Jesus said.

\*How am I doing in my study of God's Word?

It's more than memorizing verses. You can know a lot from the Bible and not know God, but you can't truly get to know God without knowing the Bible.

**Romans 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

**Psalms 119:9-11** How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. **10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**2 Timothy 3:14-17** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

\*Who am I telling about God's story and how He has changed my story?

People can't argue with my testimony!

