

Easter: The Message of Redemption, Reconciliation, Restoration and Resurrection

by Bishop M.A. Lalachan

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the key to understanding His deity and the power of His message, and it is the basis of our faith and the proof of its truth.

Scripture: Matthew 16:21, John 11:25, John 14:6, John 14:19, Romans 1:4, Romans 6:9, Romans 8:10, Romans 14:9, 1 Corinthians 15:17, Ephesians 2:6

Topics: "Easter Resurrection", "Divine Redemption"

Description

Bishop M.A. Lalachan preaches about the significance of Jesus Christ as the meeting place of eternity and time, blending deity and humanity, and uniting heaven and earth. The resurrection of Jesus is a historical fact supported by various sources, setting Christianity apart from other beliefs. The evidence of Christ's resurrection is undeniable, fulfilling His prediction and confirming His identity as the Son of God. The resurrection of Jesus transformed lives, offering hope, restoration, and eternal life to believers, showcasing His power over sin and death.

Transcript

Jesus Christ: The meeting place of eternity and time, the blending of deity and humanity, the junction of heaven and earth

Today, we celebrate the greatest day in the history of the world. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact verifiable from history. Not only is Jesus' crucifixion recorded in all four gospels, but non-Christian sources report the event too. Jewish historian Josephus and the Roman historian Tacitus are just a couple of those sources. No one can challenge Christ's resurrection -- if they take an honest look at the evidence. Only those who never study the evidence -- or who refuse to listen to its testimony -- could deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many learned men have tried to disprove Christ's resurrection -- only to become believers instead! This one truth is what sets Christianity apart from every other system of belief in the world! Because of the importance of this topic, Jesus predicted He would die, and rise from death on the third day. (Matthew 16:21) Dying and returning to life were in His plan. If Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He must be what He claimed to be: The Son of God -- the only way to God the Father. So Bible says "For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living."(ROMANS 14:9)

Jesus was arrested, as best we can determine, sometime Thursday before midnight and was actually put on trial between two and three o'clock in the Friday morning and crucified about nine o'clock and He died about three o'clock in the afternoon. After Jesus had died, the Roman soldiers came to verify; they saw that He was already dead, so they did not break His legs. This was a direct fulfillment of Psalm 34:20 ("He keeps all his bones: not one of them is broken") Later on, A rich man named Joseph of Arimathaea came to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. When Pilate knew for sure that Jesus was dead, he granted Joseph's request. Joseph and Nicodemus prepared Jesus' body for burial. His body was wrapped in hundreds of yards of linen cloth. Jesus' body was placed in a new tomb which had been carved out of solid rock. A large stone was rolled against the opening of the tomb. The Pharisees were afraid that Jesus' disciples might steal His body and claim that He had risen from the grave, so they asked Pilate to assign Roman soldiers to guard the tomb. Pilate granted their request. With that in our minds this morning, let's journey back to that first Resurrection Sunday morning. Let's look in on the events at the tomb of Jesus that day and see what happened and what it means for you and me!

On the third day, Mary Magdalene and other Mary went out to see tomb with spices they had prepared, on that first Easter morning, as dawn was breaking on a world that was forever changed, an angel of the Lord delivered a unique message, a message that changed the history forever. Let's take just a few moments to hear that wonderful message of the Easter. The Bible describes that an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and a violent earthquake took place as an angel from heaven rolled back the stone. The guards shook in fear as the angel, dressed in bright white, sat upon the stone. The angel announced to the women that Jesus who was crucified was no longer in the tomb "He is risen, just as he said." Then he instructed the women to go inform the disciples. With a mixture of fear and joy they ran to obey the angel's command, but suddenly Jesus met them on their way. They fell at his feet and worshiped him. Jesus then said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me." The women ran back to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen. They met Peter and John and told them what they had seen and heard. Peter and John ran to the tomb. When they reached the tomb of Jesus, they saw an amazing sight! The linen cloth which had been wrapped around Jesus' body was lying there undisturbed, but the body of Jesus was gone. Jesus had risen.

After his resurrection, Jesus made numerous appearances to His followers. He comforted the mourners outside His tomb on Sunday morning. On the road to Emmaus, He explained things about Himself from the Old Testament. Later, He ate in their presence and invited them to touch Him. Scripture records that Jesus was seen by more than 500 at one time. The Resurrection sets Christianity apart. No other religious leader has broken the power of death and conquered sin. No other event has impacted the world so much as the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Resurrection confirms that Jesus is who He claimed to be. He proved His deity by fulfilling the prophecies of His death and by His return from the grave. The Bible declares that "by being raised from the dead [Christ] was proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God Himself" (Romans 1:4)

Dwight L Moody said "Death may be the King of terrors... but Jesus is the King of kings" It is amazing to think about the fact that Jesus never wrote a book, and yet there are more books written about Jesus than any other subject in the world. Jesus never composed a song, but there is more music written about Jesus Christ than any other person lived in history. Jesus never drew any pictures but more art has been made about Jesus Christ than any other subject in history. Jesus never traveled more than 200 miles from where he was born, and yet, you can find followers of Jesus in every nook and corner of the planet. The testimony of millions of transformed lives through the centuries shows the power of the Resurrection.

Many have been delivered from addictions. The destitute and despairing have found hope. Broken relationships have been restored. The most conclusive proof for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that He is living within believers today in all of His resurrected life and transforming power. The Bible asserts, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). By rising from the dead, Jesus proved His authority and power to break the bonds of sin and to assure forgiveness and eternal life to all who accept His gift of salvation.

Christian faith is not founded on a fairy tale. But it's founded on truth. His resurrection is confirmation of the truth. Thus, we can have total confidence Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). The Bible records, "Christ rose from the dead and will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him" (Romans 6:9). The Resurrection secured our victory over death as well and "lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ, where we sit with him in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 2:6). Resurrected Jesus makes transformation possible. Sin no longer has to dominate our lives. There's a new way to be human. Paul, an eyewitness to the risen Jesus, explains: "But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:10-11). The promise of the resurrection had been extended by Jesus to all of us as well, that he himself had said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," John 11:25 "Because I live, you shall live also, "(John 14:19) Happy Easter.

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