

Title: He is Risen!
Scripture: Acts 5:30-31
Series: Topical

1. Introduction –

- a. Before we get started, I wanted to say that most of this sermon is directly linked to the book *Jesus Came to Save Sinners* by CH Spurgeon. I highly recommend that each of you would read this book in its entirety.
- b. Today, I want to start our time with a critical question for us to consider. What do you know about the resurrection of Jesus from among the dead?
- c. For most of society, the resurrection has had little to no meaning.
 - i. We, as a society, might be familiar with the details of the resurrection narrative, but we remain unchanged by the resurrection itself. There is no evidence that our lives have been impacted directly by this holy event.
- d. To most, Easter has become a commercial holiday in which we celebrate spring with eggs, bunnies, and candy. We might even enjoy a big meal with family. And yet, the truth of the resurrection and all that it means escape our attention. We move in and out of the day without much conviction.
- e. However, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the key moments in all of history. The power of the resurrection goes entirely beyond the historical narrative. Although ignored by most, the world, quite literally, has been changed by the resurrection of Jesus

Christ. We even measure our days by a calendar that is based upon this resurrection.

- f. Today, I will endeavor to walk us through the importance and the power of the resurrection. It is my desire that the Christian would be strengthened in conviction, and the unbeliever would finally see the need for salvation in Jesus Christ.
 - i. May our Lord be glorified this resurrection morning by opening our eyes to the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Lord of all!
2. Verse 30: Jesus Christ is alive: The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.
- a. The speaker in our portion of Scripture is Peter. He is preaching an incredible sermon during the feast of Pentecost. Peter states that his hearers were guilty of murdering Jesus Christ. However, the crucifixion is not the end of the gospel. Peter boldly proclaims that God the Father had raised Jesus from among the dead!
 - b. We have often spoken about Christ Crucified, who is the only hope of the guilty sinner, but it is wise to remember that our Lord has also risen from the dead and lives eternally.
 - i. In other words, the gospel message does not end with the crucifixion. Jesus Christ does not merely die for sin, but He lives again, ascended to the throne in heaven, and will one day return for the saints. This is the promise of Scripture.
 - c. The resurrection from the dead assures us of the eternal life that is present in Christ. Those who have surrendered to Christ in biblical belief are forgiven

their sins at the crucifixion and live to God forever because of Christ's resurrection.

- i. In other words, we are not being asked to trust in a dead Jesus, but in One who, though He died for our sins, has risen again for our justification, the declaration of our right standing before God the Father. The resurrection completes the crucifixion.

1. **Romans 4:25** (Jesus) who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

d. What does this mean for us? Beloved, we can go to Jesus as to a living and present savior.

- i. He is not just a memory (some historical figure that lived long ago), but He is a living and constantly present savior.

1. Right before His ascension, our Lord promised his disciples His perpetual abiding presence. He states in **Matthew 28:20b** "...I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- a. Because Jesus lives, we can have an intimate relationship with Him. We are never alone to navigate the perils of this world. Christ is ever with us.

- ii. By virtue of the resurrection, we are also promised that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His will.

1. **1 John 5:15** And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- a. We are afforded the blessing of talking with the living Savior.
 - e. The Bible teaches us that Jesus now lives to intentionally carry on the work for which He once laid down His life. He is interceding right now for sinners at the right hand of the Father, and, for this reason, He can save those who come to God by Him.
 - i. Listen to the words of Scripture. We read in **Hebrews 7:25**; consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
 - f. Come and experience this living Savior if you have never done so before. He is interceding on your behalf right now!
3. Verse 31: The Exalted Christ: God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- a. Here we learn that Jesus was raised to glory and power. He no longer mourns or suffers like a humble man before his foes.
 - i. Instead, Jesus is exalted far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named (Ephesians 1:21).
 - ii. Christ, the highest before the incarnation, endured great humiliation to save man. After this humiliation, Christ was necessarily exalted to the most elevated position possible as Lord over all.
 - 1. We read in **Philippians 2:6-11** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count

equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4. The Father has therefore given Jesus all power in heaven and on earth as part of His exaltation, and Jesus exercises this power in carrying out His work of grace. The sovereign right over life and death now belongs to Jesus.
 - a. According to our Scripture, the Father has made Jesus Mediator to all people so that He can make alive whomever He wills.
 - i. The Bible states in **John 5:21-22** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. (22) For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son
 - ii. Jesus is presented as the one who can open doors that no one will shut and the one who can shut doors that no one will open (Revelation 3:7). He has the power to save any from their sin and resurrect any to newness of life.

1. His Word can loosen the soul, which is bound by sin and condemnation in a mere moment. Jesus sends out His truth in power, and whatever it touches will live.
 - a. **John 8:32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - b. Today, you can be set free by the truth of Jesus Christ’s love in dying and resurrecting on your behalf.
- iii. Beloved, it is good for us that just like sin lives, the flesh lives, and the Devil lives – so Jesus lives again. It’s also good that whatever power these can have to ruin us, Jesus still has greater power to save us.
 1. **John 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
 2. At the resurrection, Christ overcame all. Those that are found in Him are guaranteed to overcome this present life as well.
 - a. **Romans 8:38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - b. What a privileged place the saints of God occupy.

5. We learn from our passage that all of His exaltation is for our benefit. He is exalted “to be the savior” and “to give forgiveness of sin.” He is exalted to be a Prince and Savior so He can give all that is needed to accomplish the salvation of all who come under His kingly rule.

a. In other words, Jesus holds nothing back – there’s nothing He won’t use for a sinner’s salvation and nothing He won’t use to display His beautiful grace.

b. He links His position as Prince with His position as Savior as if He could not be one without the other.

i. **Luke 19:9-10** And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

1. Salvation was the expressed purpose of His coming.

2. He came for you and you specifically!

ii. How wicked is the heart that will not believe in Jesus the Savior? The heart that affirms its inability to believe or the heart that might protests that there is too much sin and weakness for Christ to overcome. These thoughts are blasphemous thoughts! None can believe on their own, and none are worthy of salvation. What does the Bible say in regards to the weakness and unworthiness found within all of the human race?

1. We read in **1 Corinthians 1:26-29** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God

chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

c. Can there be any better news that will raise the hopes of sinners? If you cannot believe, Christ grants the faith to believe. If you are too foul in sin, Christ grants us the second birth by which all our past deeds are wiped away!

i. The Bible declares the following:

1. **Psalms 121:1-3** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? (2) My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (3) He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

a. Beloved, raise your eyes to these hills of glory from where your help must come from. Raise your eyes to Jesus!

ii. I remind you of the old hymn Turn Your Eyes:

1. Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased
(Crucifixion)

2. Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone

For we carry His life in our veins
(Resurrection)

d. Beloved, we have a friend in the court of God, a friend on the throne. Jesus will use all His influence for those who entrust their lives to His hands. He will ensure their salvation because that salvation was paid in His blood. His love compelled Him to die, but it was that same love that caused Him to rise so that He could be the first among many to do so.

i. **1 Corinthians 15:20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep.

6. So, what does the resurrection mean? It means that a living savior is willing to save those that come to Him. His crucifixion pays our sin debt, and His resurrection grants us eternal life.

a. However, all of this is meaningless to you if you do not repent of your sin and come to Christ as Savior. Knowledge of the truth is pointless unless you act upon that truth.

b. Today, our Lord has shown all of us the importance of the resurrection. Do not continue to sin against God by leaving this place without the salvation that Christ offers. May God convict your heart this Easter Sunday!

7. Benediction:

a. **Romans 6:4-5** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too

might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Public Reading of Scripture
Mark 16:1-6