

Living by Resurrection Power

March 4—May 27, 2012

They nailed Jesus to the cross early in the morning on the day we call Good Friday. By three o'clock in the afternoon, he was dead. When Jesus died, the hopes and dreams of his followers died too. Surely those who deserted him felt especially remorseful.

Saturday eventually came and went, but the disciples' feelings of guilt and fear did not.

When Sunday came, those guilt-laden, fear-filled disciples brought their dashed hopes, looked into the tomb, and found it empty.

Learn the Lessons of the Empty Tomb

Consider the meaning of the resurrection and the empty tomb.

God Still Moves Stones!

The empty tomb tells us that there is no stone in life, however huge and heavy, that cannot be moved by God's grace! The tomb stands open for the world to see that there is nothing anyone will ever face which Christ's resurrection power cannot conquer!

He Is Here Now

Christ is not in the tomb because he is here with us now. From the dawn of Christ's resurrection until this very moment, every person who has believed in the resurrected Christ has had the same experience: We have learned that because of the resurrection, we will never be alone again. For those who believe, every situation of life is filled with his presence.

He Brings Life and Hope

The message of the resurrection is that the risen Christ comes wherever there is death and brings life. However, there are more kinds of dying than physical

death. There is death of belief, death of relationships, death of integrity, death of hope. (The list goes on and on.) By the power of the resurrection, Jesus Christ comes to all the places in our lives where death is, and he brings life and hope.

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During this quarter, let us learn to be people of the resurrection, living by Christ's resurrection power. Let us bring our needs and concerns to the one who faithfully renews, restores, and resurrects.

Practice daily the disciplines of Romans

12:12: *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

- (1) *Embrace Hope:* Give daily expression to your expectancy and joy through praise, testimony, and example.
- (2) *Exercise Patience:* Speak with kindness. Respond in every circumstance with a Christlike spirit. Wait for God to bring healing and renewal to your life.
- (3) *Practice Prayer:* Cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence by your faithfulness in prayer. Commit to a deeper prayer life.



Bill Manning
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