

LIVING AS THOSE TO BE RESURRECTED

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Luke 24:1-9

Introduction

The angel's question to Mary Magdalene that glorious morning reveals a problematic heart condition.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

- It revealed that Mary was still interpreting Jesus through the grid of the old regime - death is final.
- The disbelief in our hearts enslaves us to sin, causing us to view our lifestyles through eyes of death.
 - Make the most of life while you here, amass all you can for yourself cause you can't enjoy it when your gone, live to make a name for yourself that will last, building your bucket list

Problem: If we live as though death is the end, then death rules our lifestyles.

The eyes of flesh only see the road to the cross and cannot see beyond the cross to the resurrection.

The eyes of the flesh only see the cross as a horrible death that they seek to avoid at all costs.

The eyes of the flesh only see the cross as the grand, unpenetrable, end. **THIS IS THE STING!!**

But trusting Jesus daily and His promise of the resurrection will lead to an eternal life lived NOW!

"Follow me", Jesus said.

Jesus is likened to a shepherd who will lead the sheep and they will follow him wherever he goes.

1. Jesus' invitation to follow him goes beyond living obedient lives daily.
2. Jesus' invitation to follow him goes beyond taking up your cross & sacrificing your life for others.
3. Jesus' invitation to follow him even goes beyond your being martyred for His name sake.
4. Ultimately, Jesus' invitation to follow him means to follow him beyond the resurrection into Glory.
 - o **It is here we find the purpose and value of our Christian lives.**
 - o **Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."**

Jesus became the reality for our faith in his rising from the grave.

The resurrection is proof that sin and death has been conquered and a glorified life awaits the faithful.

- o If sin is paid for, and righteous is provided, and justice is satisfied, nothing can keep Christ or his people, whom he die for, in the grave. Death, destruction and decay is for the guilty.
- o Apostle Paul told us, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" In referring to Christ's victory OVER the cross. Jesus won!

Conclusion

(Follow me) Jesus is not only inviting people to be become partakers in the resurrection by faith

- o But He is inviting believers to follow him by living NOW as people who will be resurrected.
- o This type of life looks entirely different than people who live as though death is the end.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul ponders the value and meaning of his lifestyle if there were no resurrection.

- o He concludes that it would be ridiculous— fool to be pitied.
- o The reason it is pitiful is that the resurrection guided and empowered him to do things which would be ludicrous without the hope of resurrection.

You must ask yourself, "What determines your lifestyle, the finality of death or the resurrection?"

Do you live as though you will be raised from the dead?

What is the message of your life to others? That death is the end, so gain all you can now.

Or do people who see your life through their eyes of flesh ask, "why do you live like you do?"

- o Are you able to the answer them, "because there is a resurrection!"

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS? If so, you will live even if you die!