

## REMEMBERING THE RESURRECTION

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### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Luke 24:1-8:** <sup>[1]</sup> But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>[2]</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>[3]</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>[4]</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>[5]</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>[6]</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>[7]</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>[8]</sup> And they remembered his words.

**2 Timothy 2:8:** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel.

### INTRODUCTION

#### What is your earliest memory?

- THINK BACK: How old are you? Where are you? What’s happening?
  - I asked some friends → They remembered:
    - Bedtime stories with mum or dad.
    - Birthday party at McDonald’s with balloons and friends.
    - Fun details – like family pets, days at the pool, the first house they lived in.
  - My first memory: Wee boy, sitting on grass in a park, sunny day, watching my sister string daisies together by their stems.
- First memories can be tricky:<sup>1</sup>
  - Can be hard to know whether we’re remembering an actual event...
  - Or recreating one from photographs and family stories.

#### What about now → Are you good at remembering things? Or on the more forgetful side?

- My wife, Rosie: Amazing memory! Names/directions = Steel TRAP.
- Me: Not so much... Spend my time stumbling around looking for my keys = Steel SIEVE.

#### But, for a moment, imagine life with no memory (or only 24 hours).

- Be some GOOD things:
  - Everything would be new all the time!
    - **Friedrich Nietzsche** (19C German philosopher): “*The advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time.*”
    - Imagine discovering ice-cream every single day...
- But there would be **BAD** things too:
  - No connection to past/anticipation for future.

- **J. M. Barrie** (19C Scot who wrote Peter Pan): “*God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December.*”
- Love that line: Memories enable us to reminisce about beauties past and anticipate beauties to come.
- And it’s not just the past/future → Memory enables us to enjoy things in here-and-now:
  - Imagine your relationships if you had to start over every day.
  - Like that movie *50 First Dates*: Drew Barrymore has severe amnesia, so her husband, Adam Sandler, has to win her over every day.
  - (Nothing says “Happy Easter” like an Adam Sandler movie.)

### **But it is a good example of the importance of memory...**

- Our memories aren’t just a collection of dead facts from the past → They are alive and active and have the power to shape our lives.
  - Sometimes in NEGATIVE way...
    - Difficult/painful memories can get a hold on us.
    - Hard to live under the shadow of regret → Ways we’ve harmed others or how others have harmed us.
  - But memories can also shape our lives in POSITIVE, LIFE-GIVING way:
    - **Bad day at work** but then go laugh with kids/enjoy drinks with friend → REMEMBERING good things you have puts problem of day in proper perspective.
    - Facing more **significant challenges** – hard stuff of life → REMEMBERING how made it through hard times before/how God’s never let you down helps hope return.

### **It’s bc of this life-giving quality that BIBLE often calls us to remember...**

- **Joshua** set up Memorial Stones as Israelites entered PL.
- **Jesus** instituted LS with words: **Do this in remembrance of me.**
- And here **Paul** says: **Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.**

**Transition:** It’s what we do on Easter, but what does mean for us to remember Jesus is risen?

- Simply that we shouldn’t forget? That we should have facts at our fingertips?
- Or are we being called to something more? What does it mean to remember?

### **CONTEXT**

**Dustin Crowe (author/pastor) provides some helpful context.<sup>2</sup>**

- Points out:
  - In **WESTERN** mindset – the way you and I think – “remembering” means *recollecting*: bring to mind something that happened in the past.
  - But in **OT** mindset “remembering” meant more than that.
    - Call to “remember” is call to drag events of **past** into **present** → live in light of them.
    - Participate in them here-and-now.
  - In **NT** we see same thing:
    - Call to remember is active idea where we allow past events to shape life now.
    - We enter into what these past events mean for us now.

### A couple of examples...

- First a **biblical** one:
  - After FLOOD, God gave Noah a **rainbow** and promised he would never cover whole earth in judgment with water again.
  - **Gen 9:16-17:** When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and **remember** the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature... This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.
  - Each time sign of rainbow appears THIS PROMISE IS REMEMBERED:
    - Imagine what it was like for Noah the first time it rained after the flood. Major PTSD.
    - But then he saw the rainbow:
      - Didn't just recall something God said long ago.
      - Remembered that the promise still applied to him today.
  - Actively bring reality of past promise into present moment and be assured of God's love.
- Or think about an example from **everyday life**...
  - When Rosie and I celebrate our **anniversary**, we don't just intellectually acknowledge that we've been married for some 22 years.
  - We bring reality of that past event into present moment and live in light of it now.
    - CONSIDER the excitement of that day...
    - WEIGH all that's happened in intervening years...
    - FEEL GRATITUDE for our life together...
    - RECOMMIT to future years...
  - Actively bring past promises into present moment and feel greater intimacy now.

**Transition:** So it is when we remember the resurrection...

**CONTENT:** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

- Don't merely acknowledge the historical reality that Jesus rose again.
- Participate in the resurrection now.
  - Bring the resurrection into the present moment.
  - Live in light of it.
- In simpler terms, you remember the resurrection when you enter into what it means for you.

**Transition:** What does it mean for you?

- There's lots of things we could say, but here's what's struck me this week...
- It means everything sad is going to come untrue.<sup>3</sup>

### CONSEQUENCE

**We live in a world that is full of brokenness and pain.**

- **Globally** – Wars rage and bridges collapse.
- In our **community** – There's so much we could say...
  - A **brother** struggles with how to love his sibling after they attempted suicide.
  - A **wife** grieves her husband after he succumbs to ALS.

- A **young couple** grieve a miscarriage and the horrors of that still birth.
- And **personally** – What are you struggling with today?
  - Your loved one faces surgery...
  - You worry about your wayward kid...
  - There's not enough money to pay the bills...
  - You struggle with your mental health...
  - You've lost something – job, child, marriage, dream – that you can never get back...
  - You've been hurt and you don't know how to recover...
  - You've done something that can never be undone...
  - You feel loneliness, grief, or shame...

**Think about your life – or swap stories with your neighbor – world is full of brokenness and pain → But the resurrection promises us that dead things can come alive again.**

- In this world – in my life – I need that hope.
  - On the cross, Jesus died to free us from all sin and shame...
  - And then he rose – and promised to make all things new again.
- This doesn't mean that all our sorrows magically disappear, but it does mean they no longer get the final word.
  - Your story does not end in brokenness, your story does not end in pain, your story doesn't even end in death.
  - Beyond them all is a future → A future we call eternal life.

**And dear ones, we get to live in that resurrection hope right now.**

- Drag it into present moment → Live in light of it now → Enter into what it means for you...
- Jesus is alive.
  - He loves you. He forgives your sins. He gives you joy/strength. And he gives you the promise of eternal life.
  - One day, someday, all your sadness will come untrue.

**How do we live in that hope now?**

- Personally, I've found that the liturgy of Easter can help.
  - *He is risen... He is risen indeed.*
  - Good example of all we've said about dragging past events into the present:
    - We don't say: *He rose... He rose indeed* (past tense).
    - We say: *He is risen... He is risen indeed* (present tense).
- Well, don't just say it on Easter → Use it to remind yourself of the hope you have right now.
  - After suicide attempt, **brother** can stand by hospital bed and whisper: *He is risen.*
    - God can heal impossible situations...
    - And eternal peace of mind awaits us all...
  - Upon losing her spouse, **wife** can stand at the graveside and whisper: *He is risen.*
    - Her husband is with Jesus.
    - Easter matters now most of all.
  - Grieving their miscarriage, **young couple** can whisper to each other: *He is risen.*

- God will keep their baby in his arms...
- And an eternal reunion awaits them all...
- And we can do the same with whatever it is we're struggling with → YOU can do the same with whatever you're struggling with:
  - Surgeries, worries, and lost dreams...
  - We whisper: *He is risen... He is risen... He is risen indeed...*
    - You know your own pain... and Jesus does too...
    - And one day, someday, all your sadness will come untrue.

**Transition:** Conclusion time...

## CONCLUSION

- **[Unbeliever]:** If you have never received that hope, I invite you to receive it now.
  - You do that by becoming a Xn.
  - Forgiveness of sin, freedom from fear/shame, joy/strength for today, and eternal life, are all just a prayer away.
  - JESUS IS ALIVE! Ask him to be your Savior and he will be.
- **[Believer]:** If do believe, then dear ones → **Remember... Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.**
  - He loves you → And one day, someday, all your sadness will come untrue.
  - Drag that hope into your present moment → live in light of it now...

**Whatever your earliest memory is... Whether your memory now is good/bad...**

- This Easter don't just recall events from the past...
- Live in resurrection hope right now.

**Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.**

***HE IS RISEN... HE IS RISEN INDEED!***

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> See [this](#) article, accessed 3/28/24.

<sup>2</sup> See [this](#) article, accessed 3/28/24.

<sup>3</sup> Reflecting on a line in *The Lord of the Rings*, Tim Keller wrote: “Everything sad is going to come untrue and it will somehow be greater for having once been broken and lost.” See Keller, *The Reason for God*, 33.