**Easter Evidence**

**The Beautiful Cross**

* **The Great Proof of the Resurrection!**
* Since Jesus rose from the grave, we know that all who believe in Him will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead as well.
* Without the Resurrection, Jesus’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in John 14:6—“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”—doesn’t make sense.
* Because of the Resurrection, that same claim is our great and only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for salvation.
* **The Great Cost of Believing the Resurrection!**

This brings us to another ugly reality that had a beautiful result.

* In the years after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples faced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Many people in history have died for what they truly believed as a result of what others have told them. These apostles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave their lives for what they saw with their own eyes rather than deny the Resurrection.
* Their determined devotion to believe and proclaim the Resurrection brought no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It cost them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The transformation changed the hearts of the disciples because of the certainty of the Resurrection!
* **A Change of Heart Because of the Resurrection!**
* Before the Resurrection, Peter was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to admit to a young servant girl that he knew Jesus.
* After the Resurrection, Peter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the truth about Jesus not just to one young slave girl but to thousands of men and women.
* Peter and John spoke \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus. (Acts 4)
* The beauty of the Resurrection is the transformation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it brings!
* Not only does the forgiving and healing power of the Resurrection reach out to every day in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it also reaches back to every day in our past.
* If you have not experienced the transformative power of the Resurrection in your life, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the day to enter into it.
* If you have already put your faith in Jesus, today is the day to move \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in its power to make you bold and make you free.
* **The Empty Tomb is the Reason for our Spiritual Resurrection!**
* There is little debate as to whether or not the tomb was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 28:13)
* Even Jesus’s attackers admitted the tomb was empty and tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it up.
* The Resurrection transforms the meaning, the impact, and the result of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ itself.
* Now the cold tomb is for us a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Hope is now found in the tomb because Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ found in the tomb.
  + He died for our sins, and three days later, He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ again from the dead.
  + That changes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
* **The Change Is Complete because of the Resurrection!**
* Our old self \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the cross; our new beginnings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the resurrection.
* God has extended the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Resurrection to anyone who will simply put their faith in Jesus.

**So What Now?**

* His call is “Come.” Come to the cross and die to your control.
  + A call to die to the substitutes for God in your life.
  + A call to die to your sin that lingers all around you like a stink cloud.
* Because we cannot on our own be right, we need to let the righteousness of Jesus make us right.
* Let the power of the Resurrection make you free.
  + He doesn’t want you to be good. He wants you to be forgiven so that you can be near to Him.

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