

L-path Teaching
March 31, 2024

Title: **A LIFE OF VICTORY**

Big Idea: The greatest plot twist in history is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death. This miracle authenticates His deity and power. And because of this event, our hope and faith is never in vain. In response, our lives should offer worship and obedience to Him.

Text: Matthew 28:1-10

1After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Introduction:

- The first Sunday after Jesus died was supposed to be an ordinary day.
- Mary Magdalene, Mary (mother of James), went to the tomb and brought spices to anoint the body of Jesus.
- On the other hand, the disciples were all locked up in a room out of fear of persecution.
- *On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" - John 20:19*
- Nobody really understood and believed that Jesus will rise again on the 3rd day.
- What they did not expect was that the greatest victory of all time will happen, the Resurrection of Jesus.

Record of Events (What happened)

- Across the 4 Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, there are consistent events that prove the accuracy of Jesus' resurrection.

1. Empty Tomb

- All Gospels showed an empty tomb. This is a big question since the tomb was secured.
 - **Matthew 27:63-64**
63“Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’
64So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”
- The empty tomb shows that Jesus resurrected and supernaturally went out on His own.

2. The Angel

- Except for John, the other 3 Gospel writers mentioned an Angel who said that Jesus had risen.
- As we know, whenever there is an angel, it brings an important message to the receiver.
- It needed an angel to convince the women who went to the tomb early in the morning.

3. The Witnesses

- The women and the disciples, together with other believers, saw, heard, and even touched Jesus physically.
- Jesus showed himself to the believers. He spent 40 days with them.
- It was mentioned by John that Jesus performed many other signs. This proves the same Jesus who lived before is the same Jesus who has risen from the dead.

4. Jesus lifted up in heaven

- The last evidence of Jesus to prove that He is the Son of God is when He went back to heaven.
 - This is the final time they saw Jesus.
- These events proved that truly **Jesus is alive, that He has triumphed over sin and death.**

Christ's Resurrection Gives Us Victory

1. We are made right with God – Justification

- a. *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. - Romans 4:25*
- b. *He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. - Romans 4:25 (NLT)*
- c. Christ died to pay for the sin of His people.
- d. The empty tomb was proof that full payment for sin had been acceptable to God.
- e. If Christ has not been raised, then we would remain under the penalty of our sins.
- f. **In Christ's resurrection, we have God's own confirmation that our sins have been paid for by Christ's perfect sacrifice.**
- g. As believers, we are now justified in front of God.
 - I. We are declared free from the guilt of sin, and now acceptable to God.
 - II. That all our sins in the past have been forgiven, paid for.
 - III. That we have been made right with God.

2. Raised with Christ to New Life – Sanctification

- a. *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. - Romans 6:4*
- b. Without the resurrection, we would remain under the power of sin. We would remain spiritually dead.
- c. **The resurrection of Jesus releases the power of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.**
 - *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." - Luke 24:49*
- d. It brings us new life in Christ, being spiritually alive.
 - *The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. If the same Holy Spirit lives in you, He will give life to your bodies in the same way. - Romans 8:11 (NLT)*
- e. It brings sanctification, a life of holiness, a life of obedience.
 - *who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: - 1 Peter 1:2*
- f. New life in Christ is being dead to sin and alive in God.
 - *11In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those*

who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. - Romans 6:11-13

3. The promise of our own blessed resurrection – Glorification

a. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

- *20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

b. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of our own future resurrection in glory!

c. As Christ has already been raised with a resurrected body, so our dying bodies will soon be raised incorruptible.

- **1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NLT)**

42It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. 43Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 44They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

d. Being alive in Christ is being alive with Him in eternity.

e. This is our blessed hope. Our much-awaited moment as Christians.

CONCLUSION:

- **The resurrection of Jesus provided victory over our Past (Justification, forgiveness of sin), our Present (Sanctification, a life of holiness), and our Future (Glorification, eternal life with Jesus).**
- Holy Week is not just a tradition. It testifies with the true reality of a Christian, that as we believe in Jesus, our past, present, and future, are assured victories.

DISCUSSION:

1. Do you find yourself living in the Victory of Jesus on the cross and the grave?
2. Share your reflection this Holy Week on what Jesus did for us.