

The King Lives!

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction

During the special services of Lent this year, we have been following our King through His Passion to His cross. We have seen Him betrayed, denied, condemned, mocked, convicted, and crucified. Without this background and understanding, this day makes no sense to us. We're like the women when they came to the tomb Sunday morning. When they found it empty, they were perplexed. And these women had been with Jesus during His ministry and accompanied Him to the cross. But for whatever reason, they just couldn't make the connection between what Jesus had predicted about His death and resurrection and finding the tomb empty. They couldn't even remember His words until the angels reminded them. The simple message today is, "The King who suffered and died for us lives!"

The King Is Life

The women get to the tomb and see Jesus' body is not there. Of course, the King is not in the tomb. This is the place of the dead. He is among the living. And why shouldn't He be among the living? He is the Lord of life. We have accounts of three people Jesus brought back to life: Jairus' daughter in **Mark 5**, a widow's son in **Luke 7**, and Lazarus in **John 11**. He is the great I Am, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the One who created life and breathed the breath of life into the first man. Surely, the Lord and Giver of life could not be conquered by death.

A Different Kind of Resurrection

Of course, this is a different kind of life He was raised to. God breathed life into the man, but with the first sin, death entered the world and man became mortal and died. When Jairus' daughter, the widow's son, and Lazarus were raised from the dead, their mortal bodies were resuscitated, and they died again. When the King was raised from the dead, His mortal body wasn't resuscitated. He was resurrected to a new life. He was still fully human and divine, but His body was now a glorified body, a body that would live forever. Death can never touch the King again.

The King Lives for Us

I like how Martin Luther interprets what the angels said to the women: *"But what sort of silly, simple people are you that you prefer to be shocked and terrified. ... for Christ lives that He might live for your good, that you will benefit from Him and that you will be protected by Him and kept safe from all afflictions."*

To give us life

The blood of the King covers all sin. His death paid the price for sin. But only because He lives can He apply that blood to our lives and cleanse us from our sins. The King lives to give us life.

To protect and defend us

Luther said that the King lives to protect and defend us. As we've been studying the book of **Revelation** in Sunday morning Bible study, we have seen how the King defends us. The church has been,

is, and will be persecuted. In fact, the persecution will increase as time goes by. But Jesus told Peter in **Matthew 16** that He will build His church upon Peter's confession of faith that *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16)*. And *the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)*. No matter how bad things get, the world will not conquer the church completely because she is defended and protected by the King. As individual Christians, the world cannot totally defeat us either. For the world can only *kill the body, not the soul (Matthew 10:28)*. The King lives to protect His people.

To be present in the Sacraments

Bede the Venerable says that the empty tomb shows us that Jesus is present in the Sacraments. Because the King lives, He can give us His body and blood to eat and to drink. Through His body and blood, the King gives us forgiveness of sins and strengthens our faith. Because the King lives we have forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. That's what makes today so important. The King lives! The King lives for you and me.

Spread the Word

When the women realized what had happened, they went at once back to the eleven and told them all these things (**v. 8**). Now that we know our King lives and why, we do the same. We say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
