

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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John 5:25-29

November 19, 2017

### Get real! Cling to the reality of the Resurrection.

How can we not be amazed?!

- The Greeks dismissed Paul and his notion of a bodily resurrection.
- Just this past week I heard a Christian pastor dismiss it as fantasy.
- Even we who believe it wonder about it or go weeks w/o thinking of it

**Don't** go weeks without thinking about it!

### Get real! Cling to the reality of the Resurrection.

❖ Jesus' voice can raise the dead

- **Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.** v. 25
  - ♦ *Amen! Amen!* Pay attention! You can count on this - stake your life
  - ♦ Note: **has now come.** Jesus, the Son of God, came to do this.
  - ♦ The Gospel records 3 resurrections at the voice of Jesus
  - ♦ vs. 24 is key to understanding this
    - **Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.** v. 24
    - Jesus' good news produces the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection - faith/spiritual life
    - Faith's new life is eternal life - the New Self in fellowship w/ God
    - All believers have eternal life - life that passes through death's door
- How? Jesus has life in himself - he is the Source of life.
  - ♦ That's why Jesus, only Jesus, can give life. That's where the Father put it.
  - ♦ *will hear:* active verb - continue to hear, the character of the living
  - ♦ The voice/words of Jesus (faithfully proclaimed) gives/feeds eternal life
    - It works even when you don't sense or feel it.

❖ Jesus' voice will call everyone out of their grave on Judgment Day

- **Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out...** v. 28-29a
  - ♦ Aren't these words simple and clear? Jesus' voice will raise their bodies.
  - ♦ **...the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.** Eccles. 12:7
  - ♦ The soul/spirit returns to God for judgment. Heb. 9:27
  - ♦ Thief on the cross - Rich man and poor Lazarus - it's heaven or hell
  - ♦ The physical body (dust) alone remains in the grave.

- The physical resurrection is the Gospel. No resurrection = no hope.
  - ♦ <sup>14</sup> *For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ...* <sup>16</sup> *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first* (before the living are taken). 1 Thess. 4
  - ♦ In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul shows: no physical resurrection = no hope
    - If there's no physical resurrection, then Jesus didn't physically rise.
    - If Jesus didn't rise - we're all in sin, our faith is useless, we're pitiful
    - But Jesus rose first. When Jesus returns he'll raise the sleeping
- Jesus is the judge. His verdict is final forever.
  - ♦ <sup>27</sup> *And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.* <sup>28</sup> *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice* <sup>29</sup> *and come out — those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.* vs. 27-29
  - ♦ **...judge because he is the Son of Man** - the Messiah King, the Savior
    - Those who listen to Jesus/God's Word - have life, they belong to him
    - Those who viewed Jesus & the Father with contempt - judged by that
  - ♦ *have done what is good... have done what is evil*
    - Scary for us sinners. We know our sins - which he fully paid for!
    - Like Matt. 25 - Jesus is pointing to the evidence, fruits of life/death
      - Chief fruits of faith: confess X, listen to X, love X's people.
      - *evil* - bad, base, worthless. Not done in worship of the Source. Used God's gifts to glorify anyone/anything other than Jesus.
    - These words are used in the Athanasian Creed. Remember this.
  - ♦ Only 2 outcomes: rise resulting in **life** or **condemnation**
    - Life = enjoying or participating in God's blessings - with him
      - **...in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.** 2 Peter 3:13
    - Condemnation/contempt - from God, other, self. Loathing corruption
- This is real. Cling to the reality of the Resurrection.
  - ♦ It's our ultimate goal. Live amazed at this reality. Death can't shake it.
  - ♦ Don't compromise it when dealing with the death of others.
    - False comfort for those who had no time for Jesus and his word
      - False hope blunts God's call to repentance to those living.
      - They shift your own hope - maybe all or most will get to heaven
    - Offer genuine comfort: *I care. Let's get together and talk.* Focus on giving the gospel's comfort, not *the answers* before the gospel.

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