

RESURRECTION - Pete Greig

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Resurrection!

Today there are 2.3bn rejoicing in resurrection. "Christmas is important, Easter is decisive" A Wenger!

1. The power of sin is broken. We can live free and forgiven. Repent and get a new start.
2. Hope for life after death. Relationship with Christ means that death is not the end. The greatest good news.
3. Hope for life before death. John 10v10 *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* Knowing Jesus makes us more fully alive, more forgiving, more colour, imagination, laughter.
4. You and I can have real living relationship with Jesus. Not just a historical event but he is alive today. Jesus showed us what God is like.

HG Wells (War of the Worlds) "I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very centre of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history." Those who want to erase Jesus will fail. Jesus wins. Life prevails.

- Matthew Perry (Chandler in Friends) found himself in the presence of God "certain of it" and stayed sober for 2 years based on that moment. He became "a seeker of Him."
- Letitia Wright (Black Panther) "My soul was dying and Jesus saved me.... I'm still in love with Jesus."
- Buyako Saka (Arsenal FC) "I've been reading my Bible nightly in Qatar... Important to have the presence of God with me... on the pitch so I'm not nervous. I choose to put my trust in Him."
- Kelsey Grammar (Frasier) "I have found great peace in my faith. Jesus has made a difference in my life. That's not anything I will apologise for."
- Florrie Shaw (87) poor eyesight saw doctors in white and assumed she was in heaven - she had certainty!

Resurrection is cornerstone of Christianity .

Adam Bassegy testimony. Anxious with panic attacks. Didn't have answers to life. Looked to the skies and hoped. Longed for children and eventually son was born. Amazed at his intricacy Adam began to search for answers. Chose to read Bible. Befriended by a couple and gradually introduced to Jesus. Struggled to understand relationship with Jesus. "Jesus has been with you." Realised he wasn't alone on his journey.

Adam realised that resurrection means you can let go of your struggle because Jesus has got your back.

Frank Morrison used his wealth to disprove resurrection but the more he researched the more he realised he was beginning to be convinced of the evidence for the resurrection and wrote "Who moved the stone?"

- Did Jesus' disciples steal body and say Jesus is alive? None admitted it was fake despite persecution. And there were many who met with Jesus post resurrection.
 - Maybe the Pharisees took the body? Surely, they would present the body once claims of resurrection occurred? It wasn't in their interest for the message to circulate and grow.
 - Maybe the Romans took it? As Christians multiplied, no one could support the theft of Jesus' body.
- "Resurrection is rooted in history, grounded in history and grounded by experience." N Gumbel.

Jesus shows us what God is like. *All have sinned* (Rom 3v23), none live our best life aside from Jesus. Only the cross can reorient our life. Easter is decisive. It's your choice. You can't think your way into salvation. Ultimately we need to take a leap of faith.

- Spend time sharing your own stories of how each came to faith.
- Then reflect on any similarities and any differences.
- Thank God for each other.
- Pray that you each might have opportunity to share these stories with others who are not yet Christians.

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