

The Resurrection and our Grievs

Gospel of John, Part LXIX

John 20:11-18

Stuart W. Bryan

I. The Resurrection as History

Because the resurrection is historical in nature, it has ramifications in each of our lives. The historicity of the resurrection doesn't make it less important but more.

II. He is Risen!

- A. Discovering the Empty Tomb
 - 1. Mary Magdalene's Report (1-2)
 - 2. Peter's and John's Response (3-10)

- B. Appearances of the Risen Lord
 - 1. To Mary Magdalene (11-18)

 - 2. To the Disciples sans Thomas (19-23)
 - 3. To the Disciples and Thomas (24-29)

III. How the Resurrection Reshapes our Grievs

- A. The Resurrection and the Grief of Death (1 Thes 4:13-18)

When we fail to deal with grief rightly, it becomes debilitating. Satan uses it to hinder our service of Christ. As believers, we must remember that Jesus died and rose again so that we might have hope even in the face of death. Paul writes that the Eternal Son of God took to Himself our nature in order that *"through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the _____, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Heb 2:14-15). Paul writes to the Thessalonians:

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
 - 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
 - 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

B. The Resurrection and the Grief of Despair (2 Cor 4:7-18 cf. Ps 27:13)

7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8We are... perplexed, but not in despair...—10always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh... 13And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you... 16Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Paul insists that God wants to reveal the resurrection power of Christ in our lives by delivering us from despair. We are *perplexed* – we don't always understand what God is doing - but we do not *despair* – we know that He is doing it and that He has some good purpose for it. We always have hope. God will work on our behalf. We need not despair.

C. The Resurrection and the Grief of Trials (1 Pet 1:3-9)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...

Jesus' resurrection secures our _____. Because Jesus has risen from the dead, we have an *inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away* (4). God's promises are sure and steadfast. Comparatively, all trials are light and momentary.

IV. Enduring Grief (Mt 26:36-39 cf. Ps 42-43)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

To have a troubled soul is not a sin. The question is: how do we deal with our grief rightly?

- i. Jesus chose some close _____ to be with Him (v. 37);
- ii. Jesus _____ His soul to them (v. 38a);
- iii. Jesus _____ for their intercession and help (v. 38b);
- iv. Jesus _____ to the Father (v. 39a);
- v. Jesus rested His soul in God's sovereign _____ (v. 39b);
- vi. Jesus fixed His eye on His glorious _____ (cf. Heb 12:2).

V. Conclusion