

Resurrection Love

I. Love and beauty surround the resurrection of Jesus.

- A. Before Jesus resurrected from the dead, He also raised others from the dead, including a synagogue leader's daughter (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43).
- B. "Talitha" (vs. 41) is an Aramaic term of endearment related to a word that means "lamb." "Little lamb! Time to get up." Is that what it's like when we die?
- C. The favorite prayer of Jews before they went to bed was, "Into Your hands I commit my spirit." And when they woke up they prayed, "I am grateful, King Living and Eternal, for you have resurrected me from sleep. Great is your faithfulness."
- D. When Jesus died, He said with a loud voice, "Father! Into Your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:44-47). There was not only rugged faith and endurance at the cross, but also loving assurance. Even the centurion who witnessed his death realized something unusual and holy—even relational—was happening (Luke 23:46,47).
- E. Jesus wakes us from death (E.g., NDE experiences being recorded around the world)
- F. When we think about death and our loved ones, we should have great hope. For Christians to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord (II Cor. 5:6-9).

II. The resurrection story teaches us that God restores us with tender love even when we are weak (John 20:1-18).

- A. Mary shouldn't have been touching Jesus (John 20:17) but "...love covers over a multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8).
- B. Jesus settles our hearts; then He sends us. One of our main jobs is to receive His Spirit (John 20:19-23; Acts 1:4-8).
- C. Jesus forgives even the darkest unbelief (John 20:24-29).
- D. Jesus cares about every detail. He even makes breakfast for friends. (John 21:1-14).
- E. Jesus restores us at the point of our greatest shame (John 21:15-19).

III. We carry the love and power of the resurrected Christ. He puts us in charge of His "Lost and Found Department" (Matthew 28:16-20).

- A. "You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:15-21).
- B. It's so important to grasp the overwhelming love God has for His people, and for those who haven't yet joined the family.
 - 1. All world events are used by God for a greater harvest. This means increase for God's people, not decrease. Even when the world is being disciplined, we experience more grace (Romans 8:28).
 - 2. In this hour, resurrection power and restoration are operating at full throttle. Wherever you have been cut back, expect more. It is only a pruning for God's people to be even more fruitful in every way. (Romans 8:31-39) Things that we thought were dead are already breathing in life again in this new season.

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