

“A Resurrection World View”- Mark 16:3,4, John 5:1-8, Acts: 2:24-26

Everyone has a particular view of life. It is called a world-view or a life perspective. Your world-view determines how you deal with life. Christians are peculiar people. If you are a Christian you have a particular world-view. The resurrection of Jesus Christ shapes and defines our world-view. Christians believe that Jesus literally came from the grave as truth. He was in fact God. The resurrection defines our way of life and our thinking. It is why Christians traditionally begin the first day of the week, Sunday, together reminding ourselves that death or defeat cannot hold us down.

The writer Luke wrote in Acts 2:24, a summary of the Christian’s world view when he wrote, “But God raised Him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because death could not keep its hold on him. This verse gives us our world view: a resurrection world view. So before we leave Easter too quickly, let’s again look at its impact one more time.

This morning I would like to share with you three life practices of people who have a resurrection world-view. The first life practice is, don’t fear. Luke goes on in Acts 2 verses 25 and 26 to quote King David, “I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises. My body rests in hope.” The first words out of the resurrected Jesus’ mouth were, “Don’t be afraid.” Fear has powerful neutralizing consequences in our lives. I remember not too long after 9-11, that all over the news that that we were all to build a shelter in our homes to protect us from bacterial warfare and dirty bombs. I can remember seeing the news of the panic at the Home Depot looking for and fighting over supplies and especially trying to find duct tape. People were buying it to tape their

windows and doors. Back in the 1950s and early 60's I can remember doing the "get under the desk" drills in case of atomic attack. I always wonder how a desk would really protect me if the Russians had dropped the bomb.

The problem with fear is that you are always thinking of what can go wrong. Very often we anticipate the worst-case scenario: You're going to strike out, your spouse is going to let you down, or someone else is going to get the better grade. You are going to lose your job. Fear neutralizes faith. And it causes us to focus on ourselves rather than God. Jesus called his friends blessed. The word blessed means not subject to fate. The word blessed means being able to live your life fully and nothing separating you from God's love and purpose. The word blessed means deathless. If the greatest thing we fear is death, God's got it covered. We don't need to be people who fear. I can remember my father, when I was worried about or afraid about something ask me, "What is the worst thing that can happen?" When I thought about that, the fear became manageable and I didn't need to fear it. Death is the worst thing that can happen and God's got it covered.

The second life practice that is so critical of people with a resurrection world-view is don't sit. Don't sit around waiting for good things to happen. Faith is more than wishful thinking. In the story that our storytellers read for us Jesus was in Bethesda. This was a place in Jerusalem where there were people who were blind, lame, and paralyzed. The people were laying around waiting for the waters to stir so they could get in and be healed. Jesus came up to a man who had lain there for 38 years and asked him a great question. This is the same question he asks all of us right now: "Do you want to get well?" He is asking us, "Is there something in your life that is holding you down that you want to change?"

The man responded to Jesus with “I cant sir, no one is there to help in the water when it stirs.” Jesus’ response to him was, “So don’t just sit or lie there waiting for something to change, get up. Roll up your mat of excuses and walk. Do what you always thought was impossible.” The same is true of us. Don’t just sit there waiting for something to happen.. Like the man in front of the pool we love to make excuses for not moving forward: my boss is a jerk; I don’t have the time; I’m too busy. Jesus says to us also, “Don’t sit there waiting for something to happen or change. Death and defeat has no power when I am present. Do what other people say can’t be done. If your not happy in your job go back to school. If you are in debt cut up the credit cards. Go to the gym. Get involved in church. Because Jesus rose from the dead, it changes our world-view. Don’t blame other people. You and I own responsibility for God’s plan in our lives.

The third life practice of people with a resurrection world-view is: once you get started, don’t stop. In the passage from Mark we find Mary, Salome, and Mary were walking towards the tomb. All of a sudden it dawns on them as to how in the world were they going to get the stone rolled back from the entrance of the tomb. However, they kept going unknown to them they were going to meet the resurrected Jesus.

They got up and started towards the task before they thought of the immovable force that stood before them. This is true of us in life. We start excitedly upon something and then we hit roadblocks and then we think it is too hard. This is too big and we want to stop, quit. I tell you we need to keep on keeping on. The women in this story kept going. When we keep going towards God’s promise and faith, God will move the stone.

Do you know what I like about Easter? Easter allows us to start with a new world-view. The good news today is: Don't fear. God's got it covered. Don't sit. God is getting you up. Don't stop God has gone ahead and paved the way.