

FIVE URGENT MESSAGES TO THE CHURCH FROM THE RESURRECTED LORD

(Luke 24:44-48)

Introduction:

In 1979, the police of New Orleans were on strike during the time for the two-week Mardi Gras celebration to be climaxed with Mardi Gras Day. The city merchants would not be able to survive the crime, violence, drugs, and drunkenness connected with the Mardi Gras celebration with the police on strike. The religious celebration was postponed except for a few small parades in surrounding areas.

A radical union leader hung a dead rabbit outside the police headquarters and shouted, "You can tell the city that Easter is dead also." Little did he know that all the bunnies in the world could have been slain and this would not have affected Easter.

After the resurrection and as Christ made his appearance to His church, He told them there are some things about the Easter event that I want you to understand. The same messages of urgency that were shared with the disciples prior to Christ's ascension to heaven are the same messages for today as we commemorate His resurrection. There were then, and there are today, 5 urgent messages concerning this resurrected Christ.

I. (vv. 44-45) UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE ABOUT CHRIST.

1. Of all the people, places and things of the Bible, Christ is to be seen as the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and Finisher in all and over all the earth below and heaven above.
 - A. Concerning Christ in Genesis, He's the Creator; in Exodus, the Law Giver and Deliverer; in Leviticus, the High Priest; in Numbers, He's the Living Water; in Deuteronomy, He's the Rock in a weary land; and in Revelation, He's the Finisher.
 - B. Mt 5:18 – ***For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.***
2. (v. 44) Jesus says you can count on this, He'll come through with all His promises and judgments.
3. (v. 45) Jesus opened their understanding to the Scriptures.
4. Only the Lord can open your understanding to the Scriptures.
 - A. None of the disciples expected Jesus to be raised.
 - B. Until the resurrection, they were basically blind to the Scriptures.

5. You and I are blind to the Scripture until we come to know the resurrected Lord personally.
 - A. I Corinthians 2:14 – ***But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***
 - B. This day the Lord can open the Scriptures to you if you are saved.

[Not only must you understand the Scriptures, but:]**II. (v. 46) UNDERSTAND THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.**

1. Luke 19:10 says, ***For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.***
2. Isaiah 53:1-12 prophesied His suffering as He came to fill the role of the Suffering Servant (See also Psalm 34:20).
 - A. Understand the **AGONY** in the garden.
 - B. Understand the **ANXIETY** before the cross.
 - C. Understand the **ANGUISH** on the cross.
3. Don't forget the sin debt that was paid.
 - A. On the cross, He sealed my pardon, paid my debt & made me free!
 - B. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed me white as snow!
 - C. II Cor. 5:21 says, ***For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.***

[Not only must you understand the Scripture and the Sufferings of Jesus Christ, but:]**III. (v. 46) UNDERSTAND THE SUPERNATURAL RESURRECTION OF JESUS.**

1. Jesus was saying, Remember Church . . .
 - A. Matthew 12:40 – ***For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***
 - B. John 2:19 – ***Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.***
2. After the death, grave duties, and prophecy was completed, a mighty shaking from God took place.
3. God raised Him for our salvation as Romans 10:9 states and made vibrant disciples out of the believers and fools out of the skeptics.
4. I Corinthians 15:17 – ***And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins.***

[Not only must you understand the Scriptures, the Sufferings and the Resurrection of Christ, but also:]

IV. (vv. 46-47) UNDERSTAND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST.

1. (v. 46) Describes Christ's part in the saving Gospel.
2. (v. 47) Describes OUR part in order to be saved.
 - A. Repentance is our part.
 - 1) This is a must in order to go to Heaven.
 - 2) Luke 13:3, 5 – **I tell you, Nay: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.**
 - B. Remission of sins comes only from repentance.
3. The message of Easter is a message of salvation on Jesus's part, but have you done your part in repentance? If not, you have missed the whole joy and meaning of Easter.

[Not only must you understand Scripture, the Sufferings, Resurrection, and Salvation of Christ, but also:]

V. (vv. 47-48) UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF BEING A SOUL-WINNER FOR CHRIST.

1. (v. 47) Christ told His church that the saving Gospel must be preached to all nations beginning where they were (Jerusalem).
2. That's the imperative to the Church.
 - A. Begin where you are.
 - B. Go to where God leads you.
3. (v. 48) You **CHURCH** are to be continued witnesses of this good, life-changing news.
4. The Bible is imperative to every saved individual on this issue.
 - A. Psalm 126:5-6 – ***They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.***
 - B. Proverbs 11:30 – ***The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.***

Conclusion:

These are the 5 Urgent Messages from the resurrected Lord to you and me as individuals and the Church at large. Have you heeded the messages? If not, today He speaks by His Spirit to you. ***I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen*** (Revelation 1:18).