

A Universal Win

I was recently asked by a new Starbucks buddy if we were getting ready for Easter and the surrounding events. I had that awkward conversation about the lack of events, etc. I described our practice of proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes again every week. The conversation went quite well, but I found myself unsure what to preach on today. Sometimes I'll preach on the resurrection of Jesus because I know it's on others' minds during this time of the year, and it isn't necessarily a bad topic (haha). But this time it was me who kept coming back to the resurrection of Jesus.

There are so many aspects to Jesus' resurrection. In no particular order, there's the reality that we become accustomed to saying "Jesus was raised on the third day" as if that just makes sense to everyone. That doesn't make sense because people are raised from the dead. I've never seen a person crawl out of a grave. You live around people who believe that, so it feels normal. It's not normal.

Then there are the implications of His resurrection. Now we're discussing how everything points towards His death, burial, and resurrection. It is the heart and soul of the gospel message, because as Paul stated, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." [1 Cor. 15:17](#). That's kind of a big deal.

Then there's a personal aspect of it. We're talking about something that occurred 2,000 years ago. We have no personal/physical tie to this event. We've read about it. I've read a lot of things, but that's different than being there. I've read about D-Day, but I don't know what it was like to storm Normandy, France, and rush Omaha Beach. On the other hand, I saw Rush in concert in my early 20's and only a few rows from the stage. Do you know how cool that was? Jesus' resurrection is dear to our hearts, but it is more than an arm's length away time-wise. So, I found myself thinking about Jesus' life and resurrection, and my life. What does it mean to me? Because I have to take time and consider. I don't have the advantage of being in Jerusalem and watching everything unfold. The fear, guilt, and joy. I don't know that. But . . .

Here's what I found in my own life:

- My parents divorced when I was 9, and that dream that most kids have of reconciliation never came to fruition.
- When I was around 12, my mom convinced me to cut short our Brownwood Lake vacation so I could make the baseball award ceremonies. I wasn't happy, until I found out I made the select team to represent our town.
- When I was 14, I initially didn't make the High School drum-line, but after a section leader stepped down, I made the bass line as a Freshman. Then I started dating a pretty cute girl which was icing on the cake.
- I'd have to leave the school after a year and a half and the girl would be the first to break my heart (we'd return the favor back and forth for several years).
- When I moved back home, I went to my brother's High School (10th-12th) and made snare line my Sophomore year. Good times. And I dated a few more cute girls.

- Around that time I had fallen away from the Lord. Personal disappointments beginning from a young boy were getting the best of me. Bad habits were formed. I always knew better.
- When I was around 20, I finally got into banking. I felt like I really made it, and made \$9.50 an hour. I was kind of a big deal.
- I spent a couple more years trying to figure things out. As I was ironing my life out and making my way back to the Lord, I began to study His word and it lit a fire.
- Shortly after, I duped a blue eyed beauty to date me. She's been by my side for over 20 years now. That was a pretty big win.
- A few years into our marriage, I was baptized into Christ, because I feared my first baptism lacked actual conviction. Those are hard decisions.
- Jordan and I have been blessed with 4 healthy children. Those are beautiful moments when things go your way. You're given the gift of life. Pretty big win.
- I could go on, and there's tons that's left out, but you could tell your own story. A story of fear, disappointment, and joy. I think about the stories Eve could tell throughout her life. A timeline of Abraham, Moses, Miriam, David, or Ruth. On and on they go. The good times and the bad times. The victories and the failures. I think about Mary in John 20. Turn over there with me and let's try to appreciate what that meant for her.

Here's what I've found in Jesus:

- All the disappointing moments in life are made up in His resurrection. The power and joy that is Jesus made up for my parents' divorce, the failures of others, and most importantly, my own. It's good to have a win, and my win is in Jesus. However, . .
- His victory is a victory for all. All of our victories don't hold a candle to His. Nothing I accomplished was without him, and most of my victories mainly benefited myself or perhaps a few people. Also, my victories didn't meet the requirements of my sin. The same is true for you. Consider [Romans 11:33-36](#).
- So today, I'm thinking of Jesus' resurrection. It's incredible. He really did return from the grave, and His resurrection is like no other. His resurrection means there's life and hope beyond the grave for those who put their faith in Him. And though I wasn't there, I believe He's been with me through my life. He's forgiven me, He carries me, He's given me victory, joy, and hope. I'm so thankful for His life, death, and resurrection.