

## RESURRECTION

WHEN I WAS PREPARING TO WRITE THIS HOMILY, I FIRST TOOK A MOMENT TO READ A DAILY DEVOTIONAL, SOMETHING THAT I DO EVERY MORNING IN PREPARATION FOR MY DAY. I ASKED GOD TO INSPIRE MY THOUGHTS AND MY WORDS IN WHAT I SHOULD SAY ABOUT THE RESURRECTION. LOOK TO THE SCRIPTURES SEEMED TO BE WHAT THE VOICE IN MY HEAD TOLD ME.

AS SO OFTEN HAPPEN'S WITH GOD'S HELP, HIS WISDOM SHINES THROUGH. HERE IS A PORTION OF WHAT YOU AND I WERE MEANT TO HEAR, TAKEN FROM THE BOOK, **HEARING HIS VOICE, A ONE YEAR DEVOTIONAL, WRITTEN BY CHRIS TIEGREEN**. THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE ARE HIS WORDS, SPOKEN THROUGH HIS SERVANTS. GOD INSPIRED SCRIPTURE, AND SCRIPTURE GIVES US INSTRUCTION, ENCOURAGEMENT, INSIGHT, CORRECTION, AND ALL SORTS OF SPIRITUAL BENEFITS.

WHEN I READ ACTS 26:22-23, WHERE PAUL STATED, **“THAT I HAVE HAD HELP FROM GOD, AND SO I STAND HERE, TESTIFYING TO BOTH SMALL AND GREAT, SAYING NOTHING BUT WHAT THE PROPHETS AND MOSES SAID WOULD TAKE PLACE; THAT THE MESSIAH MUST SUFFER, AND THAT, BY BEING THE FIRST TO RISE FROM THE DEAD, HE WOULD PROCLAIM LIGHT BOTH TO OUR PEOPLE AND TO THE GENTILES”**. (NRSV) I REALISED THAT PAUL ALSO GOT HIS INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT THROUGH HELP FROM GOD. PAUL TESTIFIED TO GOD'S PLAN OF SENDING HIS SON JESUS TO SUFFER ON OUR BEHALF WHETHER WE WERE RICH OR POOR, THAT JESUS WOULD ALSO BE THE FIRST TO EVER DEFEAT THE DEVIL AND RISE FROM THE DEAD.

WHY DID PROCLAIMING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS MATTER TO PAUL AND WHY SHOULD IT MATTER TO US. IT MATTERS BECAUSE AS IMPORTANT AS THE STORIES OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JESUS WERE, THESE EVENTS MEAN NOTHING WITHOUT THE HISTORICAL EVENT THAT BROUGHT THEM TO COMPLETION, THE RESURRECTION. AT EASTER, CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD, AN EVENT THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO TRUST IN WHO JESUS WAS, EXPERIENCE A NEW BEGINNING, RECEIVE POWER FOR LIVING, AND

LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. HIS RESURRECTION MATTERS BECAUSE IT ALLOWS US TO TRUST IN HIM.

THE WHOLE POINT OF THE RESURRECTION IS THAT GOD CAN RESURRECT YOUR LIFE TOO! GOD CAN TAKE YOUR LIFE, AND NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, HE CAN GIVE YOU A NEW BEGINNING. THE BIBLE SAYS, "JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD...WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE" (ROM 6:4)

HIS RESURRECTION MATTERS BECAUSE IT PROVIDES POWER FOR LIVING. WE LIVE IN A DAY OF SELF-HELP BOOKS, OR FOR ME, YOU TUBE, OR TAKING SEMINARS OR WORKSHOPS. WHILE THEY CAN BE GREAT RESOURCES AND WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES AND ARE USEFUL IN TELLING US WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO, THEY CAN'T GIVE US THE POWER TO DO IT! THE BIBLE PROMISES AN EXTERNAL POWER SOURCE, CLAIMING THE POWER TO CHANGE OUR LIVES CAN COME TO US FROM GOD. THE VERY SAME POWER THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD IS AVAILABLE FOR OUR LIVES. I AM ONE PERSON THAT CAN TESTIFY TO THE FACT THAT GOD'S POWER HAS ALTERED MY LIFE AND I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY OF YOU THAT CAN SAY THE SAME.

THANKFULLY, CHRISTIANS MAINTAIN THAT THE RESURRECTION DID HAPPEN, AND THE BIBLE SAYS THAT "BECAUSE JESUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A BRAND-NEW LIFE AND HAVE EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR, INCLUDING A FUTURE IN HEAVEN. TO MANY OF US, THAT MEANS HOPE.

WRITTEN BY JUDI OATES

(3 MINUTE READ)