

Lent to Easter 2015

Upside uMOI & Inside



Easter Sunday: The God Who Raises The Dead

Focus of Lent to Easter 2015

What does **renewal** look like for those already committed to Christ and his church (CMF)? Committed believers may not so much need a “reset” as **an invitation not to settle**.

God often turns our **expectations** “Upside Down & Inside Out” and calls us to **rethink** what we thought we knew, what we thought we were done with, and to discover more.

It was the “religious” who thought they had arrived and could learn nothing new about God and his plans for them.

So, what God needs from the faithful is **a willingness to be teachable** and to give ourselves to the way of **deep change**.

Upside Down & Inside Out

Lent 1 – The God Who Initiates Deep Change

Lent 2 – The God Who Does the Spectacular

Lent 3 – The God Who Hides His Wisdom In A Cross

Lent 4 – The God Who Isn't Scared of the Dark

Lent 5 – The God Who Creates New Hearts

Palm Sunday – The God Who Is Still Present
When the Party is Over

Easter Sunday – The God Who Raises the Dead

John 20:1-5 NIV

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

John 20:6-10 NIV

⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

John 20:11-15 NIV

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

John 20:16-18 NIV

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Resurrection of Jesus: What Does It All Mean?

- Dead is dead—today or 2,000 years ago; nobody expected Jesus to be raised from the dead
- “Resurrection” (*anastasis*) was believed to be a future event at the end of human history
- Jesus wasn’t just brought back to life, he was metaphysically transformed (i.e. heavenly body)
- This means that Jesus defeated death; he passed through it and becomes the prototype of a new world
- God vindicates the life and ministry of Jesus; the cross is given power to save us from our sins—new life!

Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 NIV

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NIV

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: *“that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.”*

⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:9-11 NIV

⁹ For I [Paul] am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

1 Corinthians 15:12-15 NIV

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15:16-22 NIV

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 NLT

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

1 Corinthians 15:53-57 NLT

⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58 MSG

⁵⁸ With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.

“What difference does the resurrection make today?”

“If Jesus rose from the dead and was transformed to another order of existence, that means that he is not just alive somewhere, but that it validates the claim that he is Lord. If we acknowledge that Jesus truly rose from the dead, it’s not just an act of past history, it means that Jesus is still alive and still comes to us with demands on our lives... with his promise of new life for us and the hope that we can look forward to a new world. And if we truly believe in *that* hope for the future, we can live as people of that future in the midst of the present.”

Craig Keener, renowned NT scholar (Asbury Theological Seminary) in a recent interview with CPX

www.publicchristianity.org

Paul, 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 NIV

¹⁶ Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

The God Who Raises the Dead

- The principle of the resurrection is that God will surprise us *if* we're brave enough to peer into the empty tomb—face the darkness in our life, the church, and the world
- Where we expect to find more pain and sorrow, God will bring forth new life, even taking time to fold the laundry
- New life comes after death—the cross before a resurrection—it is the way of Christian growth/spiritual life
- God chooses the ordinary, the simple, and even those with a past (the outsider) to experience new life and to testify
- God often waits until the last minute, when all hope is seemingly lost, to raise us up from the dead!



Upside uMOI & Inside



Sermon audio & slides can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org

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