

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

What About the Resurrection?

Introduction:

Margaret Sangster wrote that in the mid-1950s her father, **British minister W. E. Sangster**, began to notice some uneasiness in his throat and a dragging in his leg. When he went to the doctor, he found that he had an incurable disease that caused **progressive muscular atrophy**. His muscles would gradually waste away, his voice would fail, his throat would soon become unable to swallow.

Sangster threw himself into his work in British home missions, figuring he could still write and he would have even more time for prayer. “Let me stay in the struggle, Lord,” he pleaded. “I don’t mind if I can no longer be a general, but give me just a regiment to lead.” He wrote articles and books, and helped organize prayer cells throughout England. “I’m only in the kindergarten of suffering,” he told people who pitied him.

Gradually Sangster’s legs became useless. His voice went completely. But he could still hold a pen, shakily. On Easter morning, just a few weeks before he died, he wrote a letter to his daughter. In it, he said, **“It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, ‘He is risen!’—but it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout.”** - British minister W. E. Sangster¹

TT - There are three aspects about Easter that you should want to shout about!

1. The Resurrection is a Message to be Shared - 1

Cor. 15:1-2; 3-4

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (KJV 1900)

Moreover, brethren, **I declare** unto you the gospel which **I preached** unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what **I preached** unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (KJV 1900)

3 For **I delivered** unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

A. Like Paul, We are called to share the Gospel of Christ....what would you share about it?

- Think about the women who went to the tomb that day and were told to take the Good news to the disciples in Galilee;
- The disciples who shared with Thomas that their resurrected Lord had met with them;
- After the resurrection in Matthew 28:18-20 we are also given the great commission

Matthew 28:18–20 (CSB)

18 Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

We are called to have true Gospel conversations;

1 Corinthians 15:1 (CSB)

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand

True Gospel conversations consist of sharing about the facts of the resurrection found in 1 Cor. 15:3-4

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (CSB)

For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

Christ Died for Our Sins - 1 Peter 2:24

1 Peter 2:24 (CSB)

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Jesus bore our sins when He went to the cross

He Was Buried - Matthew 27: 57-66

Matthew 27:57–66 CSB

57 When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. Then Pilate ordered that it be released. 59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen, 60 and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb.

62 The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come, steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "You have a guard of soldiers," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." 66 They went and secured the tomb by setting a seal on the stone and placing the guards.

He Was Raised - Matthew 28:5-8

Matthew 28:5–8 CSB

5 The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.’ Listen, I have told you.”

8 So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his disciples the news.

B. Sharing the Gospel is a priority in the life of a believer - first of all.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (KJV 1900)

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 15:3 (CSB)

For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

It’s amazing that when the Gospel becomes part of your life it changes your priorities.

Matthew 6:33 CSB

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

ILL - Missionary Rick Groover has used the saying,

"We must show the love of Christ and we must share the love of Christ." - Missionary Rick Groover

Celebrate ways that we **show** the love of Christ:

- Acts 1:8 Serve Local Missions Trip
- Children's change offering, every offering is to help others outside of our church (NAMB, IMB, STATE, AVBA)
- Food Distribution

Celebrate ways that we **share** the love of Christ:

- Baptism -we are getting ready for baptism Sunday
- Acts 1:8 serve local illustration - Jesse was an elderly man who was sitting in his chair who was watching us ministry in various ways. I walked up to him and asked him a simple question, "Do you know why we are here today doing this?" He said he didn't. I told him it was because we wanted them to know that we loved them and cared for them but more importantly Jesus love and cared for them too. I was able to share with Jesse about the cross and the resurrection.

You can find a tool to help guide you in sharing the Gospel?

Three Circles

Gospel Bracelets

2. The Resurrection is a Message to be Received- v. 1-2

The Gospel message is the essence of our hope...

John 1:12 - as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God

1 Corinthians 15:1 CSB

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand

Paul tells us that the Corinthians received this message....could it be that when the church is sharing the Gospel is when people receive the Gospel but people stop receiving when the church stops sharing! A person doesn't invent the message it is brought to them, they just receive it.

3. The Resurrection is a Message that Has Been Verified - v. 5-11

Science says if there is any such thing as infallible proof, it is the repetition of the same experiment.

Jesus rose from the dead, and Mary Magdalene encountered him—experiment one.

The women encountered him—experiment two.

The disciples encountered him—experiment three.

The apostles encountered him—experiment four.

Five hundred people saw him after the Resurrection—experiment five. Each one of these is the repetition of the same experiment.

They all encountered the same phenomenon. What was it? He was alive! That's what changed the history of the world.²

John 7:5 tells us that his brothers did not believe in him.

John 7:5 CSB

5 (For not even his brothers believed in him.)

Closing:

A farmer called each of his three sons in the room of his death bed just before he passed.

He told his first son, "Don't worry, I love you. Everything is going to be okay. I'll see you in the morning."

He told his second son, "Don't worry, I love you. Everything is going to be okay. I'll see you in the morning."

He told his third son, "Good bye, I love you"

Uncertain why the father told him goodbye instead of "see you later" like he told his two brothers, the third son asked about this. The daddy replied, "Son, I love you. I wish I could tell you 'I'll see you in the morning'. Sadly though the way things are right now, I won't. I know for sure I'll see your brothers because they have trust Christ for their salvation, you haven't. You've trusted everything else but Jesus.

¹ Craig Brian Larson, *750 Engaging Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers & Writers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002), 134–135.

² Citation: Walter Martin and Jill Martin Rische, *Through the Windows of Heaven* (Broadman & Holman, 1999) / PreachingToday.com, *More Perfect Illustrations: For Every Topic and Occasion* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2003), 240.