

Today's Message: "Shout Out Loud!"

Message Study Guide

Introduction

For Christians, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the greatest of all celebrations. When Christ literally defeated death, hell, and the grave when He rose on the third day, it meant that we too have defeated the fear and dread of death and the grave. Because He lives, we shall live with Him throughout eternity. In Romans 6, the Apostle Paul made some astounding statements about the resurrection that affects all of us as Christians: (1) Christ was raised from the dead by God Himself without the help of any outside force (verse 4). (2) Because Christ was raised from the dead, He will never die again (verse 9). (3) Those who are new creations in Christ Jesus have died with Him and are united with Him (verse 8). (4) All Christians will be united with Him in a resurrection like His; therefore, death no longer has dominion over us.

Easter has the power to do for us what no other celebration can do. It offers us instant encouragement and constant hope. If you love God and are called according to His purposes, if you are at a low point in your life, looking for encouragement and hope, then to you belongs a great and precious promise of Scripture: Jesus is praying for you and will never allow Satan to destroy your faith or bring you to ruin. Why would you need to hear such a message on this Easter morning? Because often times, our worse spiritual collapses happen after our greatest spiritual victories. The message God wants us to hear today is simple. Be on your guard. Stay alert. Don't let your guard down. The message to the disciples was, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming". The message for us today is, "It's Sunday, but Monday's coming".

Discussion Points

During the Last Supper, as Jesus was preparing His disciples for His eminent death, He look at Peter and warned him that Satan desired to destroy his faith. The context in Luke 22:31-34, makes it clear that He was including all the disciples in the warning. Peter recalled this warning some thirty years later when writing 1 Peter: "Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith." (1 Peter 5:8, 9)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think that Satan considers us to be most vulnerable after a great spiritual victory in our lives? What lessons can we learn from that?
2. According to the accounts of the lives of Peter and Job, the Scriptures make it clear that Satan must first go to God before he is allowed to touch or influence a child of God. How does that truth encourage you today?
3. Why do you think so many Christians have lost hope today and seem to be so discouraged in their daily Christian life? What would you say to them?
4. What is your first thought when you realize that Jesus constantly and consistently prays for you?

Think About It

As hard as it is to imagine, we must constantly remind ourselves that God really does love us and that He is more concern about us than we are about our own selves. The results of this kind of thinking will be that a new found courage and hope will spring forth from our lives on a daily basis.

Do Something About It!

You can do something about discouragement and hopelessness. Those twins' evils have been defeated by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Choose to live in an atmosphere of encouragement and hope.

Be Willing To Change

"Simon, Simon, Satan demanded to have you that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:32)