

The Resurrection
Real Hope for a Hurting World
Mark 16:1-8
Pastor Jon Haakana

On February 6, 1958 a chartered plane carrying most of the members of the Manchester United football team (soccer) known as the Busby Babes crashed on take-off from Munich Airport in Germany. With so many of their star players lost, some despaired over prospects for the clubs survival. Yet today Man Utd out of the ashes of that crash has come one of the best known and most successful soccer teams in the world. Fittingly, the man who rebuilt the team survived the crash, Sir Matthew Busby.

- Nearly 2000 years ago, the arrest of Jesus and his subsequent crucifixion and burial, caused many of his followers to despair and give up all hope. They too were in a state of shock. Jesus had been crucified and was buried in a tomb. All their dreams and hopes for the future shattered, all hope was gone.
- But, their despondency evaporated on that first Easter morning when they found the stone rolled away. Jesus had risen!
- The resurrection for me puts everything into perspective - no matter how bad things become, our world might literally crash around us – there is still real hope – because Jesus was raised from the tomb – this is our solid foundation to life and death and real tangible hope, often in the midst of despair.

During our Lenten midweek services this year, we will take a little direction as we prepare ourselves to celebrate anew the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Our service tonight and each of the following Wednesdays we will find ourselves at the same place we will be on Easter morning – at the door to the empty garden tomb. Each week we will look at an argument against the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and we will counter and affirm our faith in the resurrection through the pages of Scripture. Why? Listen to the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15: **“For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead...”**

And from our text for this Ash Wednesday: **“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel, you are saved... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: 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, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of who are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”

So, why will we spend this time during Lent to look at all the evidence of Scripture regarding Christ’s resurrection from the dead? Not to convince ourselves that what we believe is true, or not to prove to you that the resurrection is real. But like Paul in 2 Cor. 5:14-15 “Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, that those who live (you and me) should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” And being encouraged by the apostle Peter in his letter to the church and us, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.”

So today, let’s take a quick look at what Scripture says about the resurrection and what our predicament would be today if he had not arose.

I. IT IS BIBLICAL.

A. The Scripture account.

1. All four Gospels give an account of the resurrection.
2. Jesus predicted it (Matt. 20:19). **“The Son of Man will be delivered over...He will be mock and flogged and crucified, and He will be raised on the third day”**
3. The Disciples preached it (Rom. 6:5). **“For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like his.”**
4. Redemption demanded it. Again, Paul writes to the Romans: **“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (3:23-4).**

II. SUPPOSE IT ISN'T REAL?

A. Our worship is in vain.

1. Our faith is based upon it.
2. Without it, we wouldn’t have any hope.

There are people around with no hope at all, maybe even amongst us who have not awakened to the hope that the resurrection brings. are you distant from god with no hope - other than the things in this life – your home – your family – your job – your marriage here are where all your hopes are placed - but often our grasp on these things

slowly slip and when all these things are lost and they will be, where will you turn in your distress?

B. God has the power necessary. Paul wrote to the Romans: **“I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”**

This message of the resurrection is a message of real hope, Christ died for our sins and rose again on the third day. Jesus demonstrated the depth of his love for a world cut off from God because of sin. He showed us how much he cares for us – God raised him from the dead!

Jesus brings hope to us all to continue not under our own strength but in the resurrection power we have received. Surely the resurrection is all about bringing real hope to a hurting world.....

Amen.