**The Resurrection: We Should Have Known**

The Resurrection: We Should Have Known it Was Coming.

Our theme this hear is “Coming Home.”

I hope you feel at home with us this morning. I hope you feel like you have come to a safe place.

Today is what is known as Easter. Some call it Resurrection Day.

Today we celebrate the greatest event in human history. The Resurrection.

Or maybe the second greatest event. Maybe we should nominate the Incarnation.

John 1:1-2, 14 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. He was with God [the Father] in the beginning.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We could not see God. We could not go to God because God is holy and we definitely are not.

So God came near. God came in human flesh. God was incarnated, and we beheld his glory as the Son.

We could not become like God, so God became like us. He suffered in every way like we do so that he could be our high priest—that he can represent us to the Father.

But the Son called us to give glory to God, to repent of our sins, to be like God, and a lot of us did not appreciate that at all. Because of sin, because of jealousy, because of our idolatry, because of our pleasure-seeking, we decided to reject the Son, and to have him killed. When Pilate asked us what to do with him, we said, “Crucify him, Crucify him.” We said “Let his blood be on us and on our children.”

So Jesus was taken away, tortured, beaten and crucified. But God raised him from the dead.

This sermon: We should have known it was coming!

1 Cor 15:1-8 The Gospel.

This Gospel, the message of the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth will save you, if you hold on to it firmly to the end.

How are you doing at that? Are you holding on to the gospel firmly? Or are you distracted, looking at the things of the world. Are you holding on to the gospel loosely. Let me propose the antidote. Listen to this message of the resurrection.

15:3 The Messiah—Jesus of Nazareth—died according to the Scriptures.

Sure. Psalm 22:16-18 They have pierced my hands and my feet.

Zechariah 12:10 They will look on the one they have pierced. They will mourn for the death of an only child.

Isaiah 53:5-8 Pierced, crushed, led to the slaughter, taken away, cut off from the land of the living.

But also, there is 1 Cor 15:4 … that he was buried and raised from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Really? Where is that prophecy? (We will not count John 2:19 Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days)

Esther 4:12-5:2 Esther decided to lay down her life. On the third day Esther rose up and pleaded with the king, saving Israel from death.

Hosea 6:1-2 In the third day he will restore us.

Jonah 1:12-17, 2:10

v. 12 Jonah willingly gave up his life to save the Gentiles from death.

v. 12 Jonah takes responsibility for the sin.

v. 15 They kill him.

v. 17, 2:10 On the third day, he was raised from the dead and vomited out onto dry land. (Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.}

Genesis 22:1-8 On the third day, Abraham received is one and only son from death. (Hebrews 11:19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death on the third day.

Psalm 16:9-10 You will not abandon my body to the grave.

When Jesus was resurrected, he became the firstborn from the dead.

Colossians 1:17-19 Of Jesus, Paul says he is “the firstborn from the dead.

Jesus is the first of many. He is first born, as in he is the first one born.

He is the firstborn as in he is the preeminent one

Jesus fulfilled prophecy in this as well. He is the firstfruit from the dead

He fulfills the expectation of the Feast of Firstfruits. (Lev 23:9-14)

Late March, early April. When the wheat first forms a head. A harvest festival when there was no harvest.

A statement of faith that the harvest is of the Lord. A promise of a future harvest.

It came the day after the Passover. 16th of Nisan

Guess what! Jesus was resurrected on the Feast of Firstfruits.

Not only is he the Passover lamb, slain for our sins. He is the fulfillment of the firstfruits.

His resurrection is God’s promise of a future general resurrection of all.

1 Cor 15:20-23 The resurrection of Christ is the firstfruits.

This is the promise held in the resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus is the promise of a future harvest. The guarantee that you, too, will be raised.

Jesus defeated the powers of darkness.

Back to 1 Cor 15:2 By this gospel you are saved. We are only saved by this gospel. Have you believed this gospel? Have you obeyed this gospel? Have you repented and been baptized into Christ? Are you holding to it firmly?

If so, then, like Jonah, you can die to the sin that clings so closely.

If so, then you have come home. Welcome to your new home and one day God will say to you “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Welcome home.

Finish: 1 Cor 15:50-57

Welcome Home, everyone.