

Wake Up to Life

Jesus answered and said unto them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will build it again!" (John 2:19)

Easter is the time when Christians focus on and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. His resurrection is the foundation and basis for our faith as Paul wrote, "...and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

His resurrection is the guarantee that we too will be awakened from the sleep of death and raised to eternal life one day. Yet how does that apply to your life today?

I'd like analyze this bold statement of Jesus and extract from it some incredibly practical applications for our life.

The Setting of Conflict (John 2:13-22)

Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins. Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace." The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle will you work to show us why you have done this?" "Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" The leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

"Destroy this temple" When he spoke these words he was in the temple and attempting to right the wrongs of "religion." Yet "this" temple is that of his being, his body. All throughout the ministry of Jesus the religious leaders sought to discredit Him, to trap Him, to stop Him, to humiliate Him and He knew that they finally would -- crucify Him.

"...and in three days" There is a time frame involved for resurrection to take place. In this case the religious leaders scoffed at the timing. They didn't realize the power of God in Christ.

"I will build it again!" Jesus was going to resurrect himself! Scripture tells us that the entire Trinity was involved in the resurrection. In this passage we have Jesus, God the Father (Acts 3:26; 5:30, etc.), the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11).

Our Resurrection to Eternity is Coming

Don't be surprised! The time will come when all of the dead will hear the voice of the Son of Man, and they will come out of their graves. Everyone who has done good things will rise to life, but everyone who has done evil things will rise to face judgment. (John 5:28-29 cp. Matt 25:31-46)

Raise Yourself Up and Wake Up to Life

- 1) Acknowledge it - our lives can be "destroyed" more than once by:
 - Outsiders and "friends"
 - Circumstances such as accidents, sickness, decisions of others
 - Our own negative thinking resulting in self-destruction
- 2) Realize there is a time process involved
It might be 3 days, it might be 3 weeks, it might be 3 years...
- 3) You must do it! "If it is to be, it is up to me."
 - Yes, you often need input from others - but you must implement it.
 - Rely on God as the source of your strength - not the implementer.
 - There is no one else to do it for you, meaning YOU CAN DO IT!

Are you living the life YOU want to live? Are you pursuing the dreams YOU want to pursue? Are you happy with the human being YOU are? Are you enjoying the people YOU want to enjoy? If not, Easter encourages you that a personal resurrection is possible. It is up to YOU.

Easter is the Hope and Power of YOUR Resurrection

Pastor Jeff Bowman – www.JeffreyBowman.com
Jeff & Judy Bowman – Owners, Living Waters Spa
13340 Mountain View Rd., Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
www.LivingWatersSpa.com