“Christ in the Psalms: You Have Answered Me!”

Psalm 22:1,22-31; John 20:1-21

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 4/17/22)

The empty tomb is God’s answer to the cry of His Son (Ps. 22:1). The empty tomb is God’s answer to His people’s sin. The empty tomb is God’s answer to all who question their purpose in life. Jesus’ death and resurrection proclaim that your sins **have been** forgiven, and you **are** **being made** holy. Your physical death will be a gateway to unending life, all because God the Father answered the cry of His Son. (Q1)

John 20:1-21 talks of weak faith, confused faith, and forgetful faith. God is speaking the words all of us need to hear at some point in our Christian walk. Even though Jesus had told His disciples that He would be resurrected (see Matt. 16:21), Peter, John, and Mary struggled in their grief. All of the pieces didn’t fall into place until they met the risen Christ. Finally, they could grasp the enormity of His sacrifice for them. (Q2)

Notice how often the word “tomb” is repeated in this passage. It’s almost like it’s a reminder of how quickly we all age, how quickly we’ll find a grave with our name on it. Ps. 90:12 teaches us to “number our days.” We should be thinking about the end of our lives on this planet. Jesus spent every day of His life thinking of His tomb, so that we wouldn’t have to worry about our tomb.

Like spiritual amnesiacs, we tend to forget what God has promised. We say, “I don’t see God at work” or “I don’t feel forgiven.” The truth is, God is working and saving and forgiving. John looked into the empty tomb and “he saw and believed.” He didn’t understand completely, but his faith carried him through those parts that he didn’t understand. Can you relate? If your faith is weak, be encouraged: YOU HAVE A STRONG SAVIOR!!! In Christ, God’s love for His people has won out over sin and death. YOU have a share in Christ’s kingdom because of His sacrifice for you. (Q3)

Mary feared she had lost Jesus, but she was not prepared to abandon Him. As she hung by the tomb, He called her name, and she turned toward Him. He provided that little spark that opened her eyes. And then she heard these fantastic words: “I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.” We have been brought into His family, into this covenant of redemption! Wow!

Now read John 20:19-21 again. What peace is He talking about? We share His victory over sin and death. We will never know the judgment of God’s wrath for our sin. Do you have that peace? We have God’s favor, not His wrath. Do you have that peace? (Q4)

John 20:21 declares that we are a sent people, not just a saved people. We are to bring Him praise, honor, and reverence (Ps. 20:22-23). We are meant to proclaim His glory in all that we do, to all people (Matt. 28:19-20), especially to our families (Ps. 22:30-31). This is our purpose. These are our marching orders. Let us gladly proclaim His glory until He returns. (Q5)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Why did God forsake His Son? What does the empty tomb have to do with your purpose in life?
2. Is it OK to struggle in your grief? Yes! Just remember, our strong Savior has a plan and He is always faithful. What should be our part in helping a grieving friend?
3. What causes our faith to ebb and flow?
4. Where does this peace come from?
5. Who needs to hear the message of The Resurrection from you this week? Remember, your purpose is to share; God does the saving. Just as He did with Mary, He provides the spark.

“He Lives” (Ackley)

I serve a risen Savior

 He’s in the world today.

I know that He is living,

 Whatever men may say.

I see His hand of mercy;

 I hear His voice of cheer;

And just the time I need Him

 He’s always near.

 He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.

He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?

 He lives within my heart.

 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,

 Lift up your voice and sing

Eternal hallelujahs

 To Jesus Christ the King!

The Hope of all who seek Him,

 The Help of all who find,

None other is so loving,

 So good and kind.