

The Defining Moment

Resurrection Day

April 5, 2026

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT) For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

Life is made up of seasons, but it is often defined by moments within those seasons.

Over the course of our lives, we will experience tens of millions of moments. Most moments don't define us, but some do.

A decision, a crisis, an encounter can change everything.

We are seeing that right now:

- Wars are reshaping nations.
- Technology is redefining how we live.
- Crisis is causing people to question what is real and who can be trusted.

History is shaped in moments, and so are our lives. And just like seasons in life, there are moments that carry eternal weight.

And today, we are not just remembering a moment, we are celebrating "the moment": the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Because when Jesus died and rose again:

- Death was defeated
- Sin lost its power
- Hope was restored

This wasn't just a moment; it was a moment that changed history. And it doesn't just change history; it changes lives today.

The resurrection took:

- Fearful disciples and made them courageous
- Grieving followers and filled them with joy
- Empty souls and filled them with the Spirit

The resurrection is not just something we believe, it is something we experience. It's not just something we celebrate; it's something we respond to.

The empty tomb is not just an event, it is evidence.

The Resurrection Proves Who Jesus Is

Matthew 28:5-6 (NLT) Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

The resurrection validates everything Jesus said.

Anyone can claim to be a teacher, a prophet, or a leader, but only one walked out of the grave and still lives today.

The resurrection declares that Jesus is the Son of God.

When you purchase something, you receive a receipt that proves the payment was made and the transaction is complete. The empty tomb is that receipt. It declares that the cross worked, the sacrifice was accepted, and the debt for our sins was paid in full. Christ the Victor has defeated sin and death.

This means we follow a risen Savior.

But the resurrection doesn’t just prove who Jesus is, it also changes who we are.

The Resurrection Provides New Life

Romans 8:11 (NLT) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. This is not just about life after death; this is about life right now.

Last year, the battery in my car died. Some of you may not know this, but I studied automotive mechanics for two years and even worked briefly as a mechanic. So, I know the basics of jump-starting a battery.

I grabbed the jumper cables, opened the hood of my wife’s car, then opened mine and started looking for the battery; but it wasn’t there.

Then I remembered, I have a hybrid.

There I was, cables in hand, thinking, “I know what to do, but I can’t find where to connect it.”

That's how many people are today. They know something is worn out, they know something is missing, they know they need life, but they don't know where to connect.

The resurrection is the connection point. Apart from Christ, we are spiritually dead, empty, powerless, and unable to save ourselves.

But when Jesus rose from the dead, He opened the way for us to connect to resurrection power and experience life again through the Holy Spirit.

This is what Jesus did when He appeared to the disciples after rising from the dead:

John 20:19–23 (NLT) That Sunday evening^a the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Notice the contrast:

- Before the resurrection: they were hiding, full of fear and uncertainty.
- After the resurrection: they were bold, filled with peace, and completely transformed.

So, the key question is: What changed?

- It wasn't a new strategy.
- It wasn't human motivation.
- It wasn't time to process what had happened.

It was an encounter with the risen Jesus.

When Jesus stepped into the room, everything changed:

- Fear turned into peace
- Doubt turned into joy
- Isolation turned into mission
- Weakness turned into power through the Holy Spirit

The resurrection is not just a historical event; it is a transforming experience.

The resurrection brings life to what seems dead, hope to what seems lost, and purpose to what feels empty.

And the same Jesus who stood in the middle of that room wants to stand in the middle of our lives today.

If the resurrection proves who Jesus is and provides new life, then it demands a response.

The Resurrection Demands a Response

You cannot remain neutral in the face of the resurrection.

Romans 10:9–10 (NLT) If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

When the tomb was empty, people had to decide, believe or walk away. Many chose to walk away, but the disciples chose to believe, and their lives were radically transformed.

And it's the same today.

Every moment carries a point of decision. A moment when someone can say, "That decision changed everything." A relationship, an investment, a career, a life decision. But there is no decision like this one:

What will you do with Jesus?

You don't just admire the resurrection; you respond to it.

Let's go back to the beginning: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*

Today is that time for you. This is a defining moment, not just in history, but in your story.

Imagine standing in front of a door. Behind it is new life, forgiveness, and purpose. The door is open, but you must decide whether you will walk in or walk away.

This is today.

What will you do with Jesus?