

I've gone to church for years and yet Sunday's Easter Service felt as though I was hearing about the Resurrection of Jesus and what it means for today's believers for the first time. Dan talked about resurrection and resuscitation, and over the next few days I couldn't help but continue to think about the differences between the two. He explained that resurrection leads to a new creation, a changed life. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Resuscitation, on the other hand, takes you back to the initial state of where you were. He invited Josh to share his personal story, and we could see how "resurrection living" plays out in tangible terms. As I listened, I was touched by his authenticity and humility. You could see and hear the life that has been breathed into him because of his relationship with Jesus.

Some of the most life-giving verses I've ever read are from Isaiah 61:1-7 "The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace — a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn. To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory. They'll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They'll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new. You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks and foreigners to work your fields, but you'll have the title "Priests of God," honored as ministers of our God. You'll feast on the bounty of nations, you'll bask in their glory. Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever." (THE MESSAGE)

Is there anyone you know that needs to be resurrected in their finances . . . their addictions . . . their relationships? We all desire redemption, renewal, and healing. We crave resurrection, and because of Jesus, resurrection is happening in lives today. Jesus wants to heal our broken hearts. He wants to make a new life out of the mess we've made. And when difficulty comes, He walks with us every step of the way. He does not fix our problems; he's not a lucky rabbit's foot or magic lamp. But God gives us the grace to go through difficulties and teaches us how to rely on Him. And in the process, we can share how He is working. That is how God uses our story of redemption to impact others.

"What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole." (1 Peter 1:3-5, THE MESSAGE)
This is Resurrection Living!

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Part of loving God comes from seeing what He’s done in my life. How He’s restored and redeemed. Can I share that with others?

Can I acknowledge an area of my life where there has been “resurrection living?” Can I admit an area that needs to be resurrected?

Dan asked, “Are you hanging onto the worldly resuscitation of life?” How will I answer?

Resuscitation leads us back to the same state we were in. Do I want the old way?

Dan said, “Our lives are a story that impacts someone else’s story that impacts some else’s story . . .” Am I sharing my story?

In thinking about “resuscitation,” it’s very comfortable to go back to what I know and the state I was in. Am I afraid of Resurrection Living? Am I scared to leave some of my “stuff” behind? Am I fearful of giving everything to Jesus?

This month’s memory verse: “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written; The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.’”
Luke 24:45

Additional Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Joshua 1:9; John 10:10; Matthew 28:1-10; John 20:11-16

Reminders:

4.15 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “The MARK’s of Christ”

This week we begin a journey into the Gospel of Mark. Diving deep into the life of Jesus and asking, how do we make the ‘marks’ of our life look more and more like the ‘marks’ of Jesus’ life?

4.22 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “The MARK’s of Christ” & ‘4 the City!’

What does the Gospel of Mark remind us about Communion? Join us for an extended time of worship, reflection & celebration. 4 the City event to follow!

4.29 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “Family Fun Morning -Mosaic’s got Talent”

Join us as we come gather this week to simply celebrate life through laughter & community together! This will be an hour long family experience that you will not want to miss. Then lunch together @ Island Park!

Radical Reminder:

I will pray for the entire world.

I will read through the entire Word.

I will sacrifice my money for a specific purpose.

I will spend time in another context.

I will commit my life to a multiplying community.

How am I doing in each of these areas?