The Rescue – Easter - **wk 2 – It’s Not Over!**

**Nothing says Easter like April fools (tomorrow) - When you think of his death (cross) When you think of his resurr (tombs) – we have… sheets.**

**2000 yrs ago God walked through the doors of human History!**

**HIS-STORY was the turning point for all of history. Now 2000 yrs later 2.4 bill. people celebrate Easter worldwide today!**

**WHY? It all comes down to who you think Jesus is and what he did**

**Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”**

* **It matters what you think about Jesus**

**Jesus is very interested in how you see him - it matters**

**People have different views of Jesus - just a man / myth / legend / phony / nobody / buried / had kids / symbol of love**

**Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (The royal promised savior - God in the flesh) 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. (You got that right)**

**When it comes down to what you think about Jesus**

* **There is a right and a wrong answer**

**Jesus tells us that not every answer is the same - not every opinion is right. There are right and wrong ways to what you think about Jesus.**

**Jesus asked them - “Who do you say I am?” He asks you that today**

**And if you get it right- it is only because God revealed it to you**

**John records seven I AM statements by Jesus – Today one of them…**

**John 11:25 - John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...**

**What does that mean? Resurrection = "to bring back to life"**

**There are actually - 5 resurrections in the NT.**

**Each one is a taste of things to come and a present reality.**

**These real-life stories reveal Jesus' ability to resurrect our life!**

**Story 1 - Jesus resurrects a widow's son**

**Luke 7:11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. (no sons, no husband - alone - no hope for a future- destined to struggle - serious financial hopelessness) And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” (Love the heart of God here - wiping away her tears...) 14 Then he went up and touched the bier (a stand for a corpse, coffin) they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.**

**1 - Jesus can resurrect your hope and future – sheet**

**Her hopeless despair and loneness resurrected – she was given a future again.**

**When you feel all is lost and there’s no hope - Jesus wipes away the tears, resurrects and restores our hope and future**

**Where do you need hope? Lost or dead-end job, bankruptcy, failed business. What loss has left you hopeless? What dream is dead? What future seems lost? Jesus says - Get up. Live!**

**Story 2 - Jesus resurrects a preacher’s daughter**

**Mark 5:22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” 24 So Jesus went with him. (Slowed down on the way - Jesus stopped to heal a women with a 12yr illness) 35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”**

**Too late – your daughter is dead – no more hugs / no kisses.**

**36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” (believe in me specifically) 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40 But they laughed (mocked) at him. (I might have too…)**

**After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. (You can feel the heart of God - come kneel with me) 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished**

**2 - Jesus can resurrect your family and relationships - sheet**

**A mother and father – a family restored – hugs / kisses / laughter restored**

**Maybe you have a dead relationship – family, marriage, friendship**

**Maybe you feel like a failure as a parent or spouse.**

**What relationship is dead in your life? God can resurrect a dead marriage / friendship. Jesus says - get up. Live!**

**Story 3 - Jesus resurrects a friend**

**John 11: Close friend in Bethany, Lazarus, is sick – sisters Mary & Martha send for Jesus. Jesus responds, “He’ll be fine.” But a few days later – Lazarus dies… 14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, (what???) so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” (Sometimes God will let something die so he can breath new life into it) 16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (If Jesus is involved, I want to die too)**

**By the time Jesus Got there Lazarus had been dead four days - family and friends were there crying and loving on each other**

**John 11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. (Mary - is tore up at home. Marth - but I’m mad - where were you?) 21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” (I know you have power; you could have done something) 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” (Sure, one day...)**

**Jesus says not just one day - but today - 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”**

**Mary then runs out to see Jesus when she hears he is there - and cries at his feet - where were you? Martha needed an answer / Mary needed Jesus to care (like us sometimes).**

**33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 Jesus wept. (The pain that death brings - the heart of God - Jesus weeps) 36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” (Why is he crying? Not for his loss, but for their hurt.)**

**38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” (Jesus then prays out loud…)**

**43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” (it’s been said, if he had not said Lazarus – other dead bodies would…) 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”**

**3 - Jesus can resurrect your faith – grave clothes**

**Mary and Martha – both struggling to trust Jesus – found their faith again.**

**You prayed you trusted God. Grew up in church - but it seems God did not come through - loss - pain - God's delay has stirred denial that Jesus is real - and you’re now dead in doubt – and it stinks…**

**Too many unanswered prayers. I’ll never be healed /**

**I'll never marry / I'll never get better / Like Mary and Martha you’re discouraged- depression grips you- God are you there?**

**You have cried over it - told God about it - Jesus says, “I am the rez…”**

**Same voice that called Laz out, is calling you! Can you hear him - speak, "Come out! of that grave. Take off those grave clothes (reminders of death and bondage) and let him go.” = let him run**

**Story 4 – Dead people resurrected at Jesus' crucifixion**

**God kicked this dirt - God/Man Jesus walked the earth for 33 yrs - it all came down to 6 hrs on a cross... Jesus willingly gave his life - it was not a sinister plot but Gods plan to rescue us from our sin.**

**Explain the cross – arrest / trials / sentencing / fatal death…**

**It was so powerful that at the moment of death - when payment for our sins was accomplished - Jesus cries out - It is finished!**

**Matthew 27:50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (the temple veil separating us from God's presence was torn down by God himself) The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. (They just hung out in the tomb until Sunday...)**

**There was such a roar in the spirit realm over this life saving event that those recently dead walked out of the grave – Alive**

**4 - Jesus can resurrect your dead spirit – sheet?**

**That day dead men walked again… their lives given back to them by Jesus**

**The cross was no ordinary event! Jesus conquered the power of sin!**

**His death resurrects the dead in sin – the cross brings to life a past filled with shame and pain… You can be forgiven!**

**The way to God is open to all who will trust in the bloody beam**

**2 Cor 5:17 – If anyone be in Christ old things have passed away – behold all things are new!!!!!!**

**Jesus – is taken from the cross – removed – wrapped in linen and oils**

**The entire body was washed and anointed with oils, and the hands and feet were wrapped in linen bands. The body is wrapped in sheets. Spices of myrrh and aloes were placed in the folds of the garment to perfume the body. A napkin was then bound from the chin to the head. (John 19) The Bible describes this - which means they saw this as final.**

**Buried in a borrowed - hope seemed gone – confusion - his life is over – in tomb by 6PM - they cried, mourned, and huddled together - fearful - broken... Jesus is dead… hope is dead.**

**Usually, a year later when the body decomposed – the bones are collected and placed in a box - ossuary (pic) and placed on a shelf in the tomb - shared by others. A memorial.**

**But there another resurrection… Story 5 - Jesus’ resurrection**

**They returned on Sunday to finish the burial – only to find it’s empty!!!**

**All four gospels record diff aspects of the resurrection - Matthew 28:5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. (was not napping, not stolen, he was dead, now alive!)**

**7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” (que pasa) he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (Spends the 40 days meeting and preparing them for what was next…)**

**5 - Jesus can resurrect your Eternity – Sheet**

**We all have a date with death – an eternity – but death is not the end.**

**The Ancient Egyptians - a parallel world - need food, cooking utensils, weapons, money - they were buried with them... / Eastern Religions – Reincarnation - near endless cycle hoping to one day attain nothingness / Greeks – your soul is taken to a shadow world for rest / Many today – we are just biology. When we die… our life ends...**

**But Jesus spoke of an eternal soul – with one chance at this life – one death – and a possibility of a future resurrection.**

**Honestly – there is no way to verify the other stories and miracles…**

**6 Proofs of Jesus Resurrection (1-4 Lee Strobel)**

**Execution – secular scholars most widely attested fact of History. Jesus lived and was crucified under Pontious Pilate. 12 sources.**

**Early – report and account of his resurrection. Some accounts back to within a month of his death. Zero time and opportunity for legend.**

**Empty – the Tomb was immediately declared empty. Some accused it as stolen body or Jesus swooned – all agreeing the tomb is empty.**

**Eyewitnesses – Over the period of 40 days Jesus appears to over 515 people. Both men and women. Sat, talked, ate, laughed. 9 sources.**

**Enthusiasm – Radical transformation. Converted skeptics and enemies now willing to die! Because on what they saw. Jesus physically alive!**

**Explosive growth - in the face of persecution and death. The early church preached it and lived it – within 300 - the dominant faith of Rome. Known as “the community of the resurrection!”**

**The cross was victory over sin - the resurrection is victory over death, hell, and the grave! The resurrection was proof!**

**You may not realize who you are dealing with : Jesus claimed to:**

**To be God (John 5:18, 8:58-59, 10:30-38, 12:45, John 14:7-10, 16:15, 17:11-22)**

**To be the voice of God (Matt 5:17-44, Mark 13:31, John 6:63, 8:51-52, 14:23-24**

**To forgive sins (Mark 2:5-12, Luke 5:20-24)**

**To have authority over all things - including our eternal destiny (Matt 8:27, 28:18, 7: 23, Mar 1:27, Lu 12:8-9,** **Jo 3:14-19, 5:27, 6: 51, 8:12, 10:7-21, 14:6)**

**His resurrection confirms his words and work on the cross!**

**The resurrection assures life after death - but it will not be the same for everyone - Heaven is for real and so is hell, Jesus spoke of both often.**

**The empty tomb means a living Jesus - You do not have to be unsure of this life / You do not have to be unsure of the afterlife / You do not need to be afraid of death.**

**The catacombs - the great art of the persecuted - #1 most depicted Art. Lazarus – The place where Jesus wept… though we die - just like Lazarus - Jesus will raise us to life again!! These pictures remind the church life is hard – but Jesus is with us! This is not the end!**

**What is painted on your walls?**

**Easter / The resurrection is not an event - it is a person**

**Jesus didn't say he is able to resurrect - he said he is the resurrection!**

**At Lazarus resurrection - John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (Do you?)**

**You see - Sunday is just a small part of Easter. It’s not a yearly event or a weekly event - but a daily adventure. There is a life of walking in relationship with and following Jesus.**

**(Jesus asked, “Do you believe this?”) 27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” (The same thing Peter responded when Jesus him – “Who do you say I am?”)**

**Jesus is asking you the same today – “Who do you say I am?”**

**Do you believe I am the resurrection and the life?**

**There is no middle ground - there is only one right answer.**