



*The*  
**ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

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## *Today's Scripture Reading*

Acts 9:31-43



<sup>31</sup> So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

<sup>32</sup> Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. <sup>35</sup> And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.



<sup>36</sup> Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.” <sup>39</sup> So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.



40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.<sup>41</sup> And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.



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I. The **PERSECUTION**

II. The **PARALLEL**

III. The **POWER**

IV. The **PURPOSE**



# I. The **PERSECUTION**





The Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS**



The Church is **CHALLENGED**



Stephen is Brutally **MARTYRED**



Saul Wages Religious **WAR**



The Church is **SCATTERED**



The Murderer Becomes a **MISSIONARY**

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The **PERSECUTION**



## ACTS 9:31

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Persecution and *identity*

Persecution and *joy*



## 1 | identity

### MATTHEW 5:10-11

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.





## 1 | identity

### 1 TIMOTHY 3:12

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted



## 1 | identity

“Jesus is teaching that persecution is a clear a marker to **IDENTIFY** those celebrating and actively advancing the Kingdom of God.”



2 | joy

## JAMES 1:2-3

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.



2 | joy

## ACTS 5:40-41

<sup>40</sup> and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.**



“Persecution is never the enemy of the church.”

- ROBERT COLEMAN



## 1 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

<sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.



## REVELATION 12:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.

<sup>11</sup> They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.





## II. The **PARALLEL**



## ACTS 9:32-35

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<sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. <sup>35</sup> And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.



## ACTS 9:32-35

- Paralyzed
- Commanded to Rise
- Authority of Jesus
- Immediate
- Amazed



## ACTS 9:32-35

- Paralyzed
- Commanded to Rise
- Authority of Jesus
- Immediate
- Amazed

## LUKE 5:17-26

- Paralyzed
- Commanded to Rise
- Authority of Jesus
- Immediate
- Amazed

MATTHEW 9:1-8  
MARK 2:1-12



## ACTS 9:36-43

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## ACTS 9:36-43

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## ACTS 9:36-43

- Woman's Tragic Death
- Search for Healer
- Surrounded by Family
- Emptied Room
- Hand-held, "Rise"
- Amazed



## ACTS 9:36-43

- Woman's Tragic Death
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## LUKE 8:40-42, 49-56

- Woman's Tragic Death
- Search for Healer
- Surrounded by Family
- Emptied Room
- Hand-held, "Rise"
- Amazed

MATTHEW 9:18-25

MARK 5:35-43



# PARALLEL in Scripture

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PARALLEL IN SCRIPTURE



ANISTEMI

*an · is' · tay · mee*

“To cause to rise; to raise up from the dead.”



# III. The **POWER**



The *definition* of Resurrection

The *dimensions* of Resurrection

The *demand* for Resurrection

The *display* of Resurrection



# The *definition* of the Resurrection



## 1 | definition

*“The reign of Jesus evidenced  
in the miraculous regeneration  
of those who were once dead.”*





## 1 | definition

### 1 CORINTHIANS 15:17-18

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.



# The *dimensions* of Resurrection



## 2 | dimensions

### BODILY RESURRECTION

+ Lazarus

+ Jesus



## 2 | dimensions

### BODILY RESURRECTION

- + Lazarus
- + Jesus

### LIFE REGENERATION

- + Peter
- + Paul



## 2 | dimensions

### EZEKIEL 7:9

<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.



## 2 | dimensions

“Jesus of Nazareth ushers in not simply a new religious possibility, not simply a new ethic or a new way of salvation, but a new creation.”

- N.T. WRIGHT | *Surprised by Hope*



# The *demand* for Resurrection



3 | demand

EPHESIANS 2:1-5

PROVERBS 21:16

JOHN 6:53

EPHESIANS 5:14

**DEAD IN  
OUR SINS**





## 3 | demand

“To truly become Christian, we must learn to repent of the reasons we ever did anything right. Pharisees only repent of their sins, but Christians repent for the very roots of their righteousness, too. We must learn how to repent for the sin under all our other sins and under all our perceived righteousness – the sin of seeking to be our own Savior and Lord.”



## 3 | demand

“It is only when you see the desire to be your own Savior and Lord—lying beneath both your sins and your moral goodness—that you are on the verge of understanding the gospel and becoming a Christian indeed.”

- TIM KELLER | *The Prodigal God*



# The *display* of the Resurrection



4 | display



UNIVERSAL



## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:23-26

<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

<sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

<sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



## 4 | display

UNIVERSAL

POLITICAL



## LUKE 22:24-26

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

## COLOSSIANS 3:1

<sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.



## 4 | display

UNIVERSAL

POLITICAL

TRANSFORMATIONAL





The eleven remaining apostles...were caught up in Jesus' kingdom mission. The death of Jesus makes a disaster of their expectations. Then Jesus appears to them. Their response? Some still doubted. What is Jesus' response? What we call the Great Commission – go make disciples in all the world.

Beyond death, doubt, and disaster is the new life of resurrection. Beyond all pain, there is now hope.

- SCOTT McKNIGHT | *The Jesus Creed*



## 4 | display

UNIVERSAL

POLITICAL

TRANSFORMATIONAL

ROYAL



## ACTS 2:29-33

<sup>31</sup> [David] foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.



“We ourselves were well familiar with war and murder...but all of us have exchanged our swords for ploughshares, our spears for farm tools. Now we cultivate the fear of God, justice, kindness to men, faith, with the expectation of the future given to us by the Father himself through the Crucified One.”

- JUSTIN MARTYR



# IV. The **PURPOSE**



## RESURRECTION = *Dangerous*

**Lazarus** was raised...and the Jewish religious leadership plotted his death | **JOHN 12:9**

**Peter** was resurrected...and he too was seen as extremely dangerous | **ACTS 7:57-60**

**Paul** was resurrected...and was martyred by most powerful political force in the world



RESURRECTION + PERSECUTION



RESURRECTION → PERSECUTION

Resurrected people are in a constant state of rebellion against the world, leading to persecution.





**PERSECUTION** → RESUR~~RECTION~~

Persecution is the effort to use doubt, despair, and even death to nullify the resurrected life.



RESURRECTION



~~PERSECUTION~~

But death cannot defeat a resurrected people, who know they have already been raised from the dead by the merciful hand of God.



## LUKE 9:23

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”



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**We participate not only in Christ's death,  
BUT ALSO IN HIS RESURRECTION!**



# THREE QUESTIONS



# 1. Who **IS** the King?



1. Who **IS** the King?
2. Will you **follow** the King?



## MATTHEW 13:44

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.





1. Who **IS** the King?
2. Will you **follow** the King?
3. Will you **lay down your life** for the King?



Wholeheartedness does not equal perfection...we see this in the lives of Jesus disciples, who had given everything up to follow Jesus but still stumbled from time to time. The difference between an unbeliever and a believer, or a traitor and a subject of a King, is not the presence of sin. Rather, it is a joyful willingness of the true believer, when confronted with a previously unknown idol, to humbly repent, eagerly throw off that distraction, and fix his gaze on Jesus.”

**NATHANAEL EGGER** | *Default Christianity*

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**CONCLUSION**



## JOHN 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?”



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