

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on April 17, 2022:**

**"Resurrection  
(John 20:1-18)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us that the resurrection of Jesus creates a spiritual transformational change in our lives.]**

Welcome: Christine Leon

- Good morning everyone and happy Easter!
- It's Resurrection Day and Easter Sunday.
- So, why are we here? We're here to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The real purpose of why we are here is to celebrate the fact that Jesus came to die for us and to reconcile us.
- And we're so thankful to Him for being here and we are here to worship Him.

**Romans 6:8 (NIV), Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.**

- So, we can praise and worship Him, and now, we're going to do that.

Worship Songs:

Pastor Craig:

- He is risen, risen, indeed!
- And, what does that mean to us?
- Resurrection – what does that mean to us?
  - Renewal of life.
  - Freedom
  - Hope
  
- Today is also a day of change – a day of absolute and ultimate change.
- Why we exist is because of what Jesus did for us today.
- Now, Friday and Saturday didn't keep Jesus in the tomb.
- Jesus is alive and well and He's living in us – so how could it get any better than that?
  
- This passage we're going to look at today should prompt us to think of answers to 5 key questions.
- These are questions that are actually asked in the text.
- And they are questions that are asked of each of us today here at Resurrection Sunday.

5 Questions:

1. Where is Jesus?
  - Where is He in the midst of change? Change can be positive or negative.

2. What do we do now?
  - That's what Peter and John asked when they saw that the tomb was empty.
3. Why are you crying?
  - Sometimes change can lead to tears.
4. Who are you looking for?
  - In the midst of change, this is a very key question.
5. Will life be like it had been?
  - This is a question we ask ourselves after we experience change.

**John 20:1 (NASB), Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark,**

- Mary was the first attendee of the first sunrise service.

**1b) and saw the stone already removed from the tomb. 2) So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved,**

- John is always referred to as “the other disciple.”
- Was John trying to play down his reputation? Probably.

**2b) and said to them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him.”**

- The followers of Jesus didn't remember Jesus talking about His resurrection.
- Not only did Mary go through the suffering of Jesus' crucifixion on Friday, she's also worried about what's happened to his body.

**3) So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb. 4) The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; 5) and he stooped to look in, and saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in. 6) So Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying there, 7) and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself. 8) So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed.**

- John had been with Jesus for at least 3 years, but he didn't believe until he later saw that Jesus was resurrected.
- That made a drastic change in John's life and the other disciples as well.
- Jesus' resurrection is what this life is all about.
- There's no way we can minimize what today represents and what that means for our lives, ongoing.

**9) For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.**

- The resurrection caused absolute change.
- All of us have been through considerable change, but it doesn't stand in comparison to the change that today represents, the day of the resurrection.

**10) So the disciples went away again to their own homes. 11) But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb;**

- John and Peter were processing that question, “What do we do now?”
- Yes, John believed but he probably didn’t know what that really meant in terms of change.
- Now, the disciples were ready to go back to their profession of fishing.

**12) and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13) And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him.”**

- Now, if we walked into a tomb and saw 2 angels, we probably would have acted differently than Mary.
- Mary went there to prepare Jesus’ body for proper burial.

**14) When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. 15) Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”**

- Now, can all of us have the heart of Mary, because she was there seeking Jesus.
- Now Jesus knew the answer to that question, before He even asked it.

**Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.” 16) Jesus said to her, “Mary!”**

- Can you imagine the emotion in those words and in Jesus’ eyes when he said her name?
- Now, can you hear Jesus calling your name? He will.

**16b) She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). 17) Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”**

- Does this sound a little insensitive?
- But what if Mary was thinking that now that Jesus was back, would things be like they were?
- But things could never be the same as they were, because a miraculous change had just occurred.
- Nothing would ever be the same for the disciples.
- Because from that day on, everything changed.

**17b ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”**

- That’s who we worship.
- Our brother Jesus went to our God

**18) Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.**

- On this day of change, on this day of the resurrection, do we see the Lord?
- Do we hear him call our name?
- Do we sense the transformation that is happening because of resurrection?
- Are we continually worshipping Jesus?
- And now, our sister Linda will read a poem, “To All Who Love Him”

Linda Morgan: “To All Who Love Him”

O God of the Universe,  
 You shed your glory, your majesty,  
 Your omnipotence  
 To become human, as Jesus Christ –  
 To get close to us, to connect with with us,  
 To be our role model and guide for living.

O God of the Universe,  
 You became the human Jesus Christ,  
 To know us, to feel all we feel,  
 To show us how much you love us,  
 By taking within yourself all our sins.

O God of the Universe,  
 You felt not just one person’s pain  
 But the pain of all of us,  
 To wash us clean and bond with us.  
 Your creation, your children.

O God of the Universe,  
 You proved your transcendent holy power  
 By rising from the dead,  
 A sign that all of us who believe in You  
 Will also rise to be with You eternally.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ  
 is the Happy” in “Happy Easter.”  
 Happy Easter to all those who love Him.

Communion by Fred Stevens:

- Now, we come to the communion portion of this service.

**Luke 24:30 (NIV), When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.**

- Now, this didn’t happen at the Lord’s Supper night.
- What Fred just read, happened in the little village of Emmaus in the evening after the resurrection with Jesus and two of His followers.

- Now at the Last Supper, Jesus changed what the Passover meal meant by instead of looking backwards, he changed it to look forward and broke the bread and said, “This is my body” and then He gave them the wine and said, “This is my blood.”
- Before they began eating dinner together, Jesus explained to them what the scriptures said about him.

**30) When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31) Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.**

- Now Emmaus is about 7 miles from Jerusalem.
- And after this encounter with Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem in a hurry.
- There they told the disciples who they met on the road and how He made Himself known to them by the breaking of the bread.
- There was something special in that moment.
- And then, all of a sudden, Jesus appeared to all of them and they were shocked.
- At first, they didn’t believe this was Jesus.
- Then Jesus said to them, **39) Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”**
- Jesus had shown them His broken body, so they could see that it was really Him.
- But they still had some questions, so Jesus asked them, **41) “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42) They gave a piece of boiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”**
- Now, only living things can eat food, so Jesus is showing them that He is alive.
- **45) And then he opened their minds, so they could understand the Scriptures.**
- Now, Jesus used the bread and wine as symbols at the Lord’s Supper.
- And on the day of His resurrection, Jesus did it again to open the disciples’ understanding.
- His body revealed who He is.
- And may we take these symbols and allow Him to reveal in us who He is and that He actually rose from the dead and He is who He says He is.
- He had taken the bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, **“Eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**
- **“And he took the cup of wine and said, “This is the blood of the New Covenant, (meaning the new relationship, the new commitment for the forgiveness of sin.) Take in remembrance of me.**

Prayer: Father, Lord, Spirit, we are humbled by all that we have seen, heard and learned this last week. We understand so much more today in the message we’ve just heard and experienced. And we’re so thankful to have your blessing renewed in us and in our hearts.

And we ask, as we take these symbols to remember You and who You are, You will just enliven us, make changes in us and renew us, because we are Your body, broken but healed, revised, refreshed, renewed, resurrected. Let us be your body to do Your will. We praise you and thank you in Jesus’ name. Amen.