

The Beauty of the Resurrection

I. The beauty of Jesus and His compassion for us are portrayed in every part of the resurrection story.

- A. Before Jesus Himself rose from the dead, he also raised others from the dead, including a synagogue leader's daughter (Mark 5:35-42).
- B. "Talitha" (vs. 41) is an Aramaic term of endearment related to a word that means lamb. So, Jesus was saying, "Little lamb, time to get up."
- C. A favorite prayer of Jews before they went to bed was, "Into You I commit my spirit." And when they woke up they prayed, "I am grateful, King, living and eternal, for you have resurrected me from sleep. Great is your faithfulness."
- D. When Jesus died, he said with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:44-47). There was not only rugged faith and endurance at the cross, but also loving assurance. It was as if Jesus said, "I am going to sleep now. I'll wake up soon." Even the centurion who witnessed this realized something unusual and holy was happening (Luke 23:46-47).
- E. When we think about death and our loved ones, these thoughts give us great hope! Jesus wakes us up!
 - 1. Example of NDE experiences of believers around the world. There is always an overwhelming sense of coming home and belonging. When they are sent back, it is always to fulfill more of what they were made for ([Imagine Heaven](#), p. 79-80).
 - 2. Examples of resurrection stories: I have met three people who have come back from the dead, two of whom were not believers when they died. We also met and heard from seven Indian pastors who had raised someone from the dead in their evangelistic work.

II. The resurrection story teaches us that God restores us with tender love even when we are weak (John 20:1-18).

- A. Jesus calls us by name even in my uncleanness. Love is always his first rule (John 20:15-17).
- B. Jesus settles our hearts; then he sends us. Our main job is to receive his breath and empowerment (John 20:19-23; Acts 1:4-8).
- C. Jesus restores the darkest unbelief (Thomas - John 20:24-28).
- D. Jesus cares about every detail. He even makes us breakfast (John 21:1-14).
- E. Jesus restores us at the point of our greatest shame and forges a weapon against darkness (John 21:15-19).

III. We carry the love and power of the resurrection of Jesus.

- A. This means that God specializes in using us to "call into being things that were not." He puts us in charge of his Lost and Found Department (Romans 4:16-17).
- B. Jesus also gives us his humble, restful heart. "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30)
- C. Resurrection compassion causes us to give away what we have, and it is always enough. "You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:15-16).
- D. Examples of Mother Teresa and St. Francis of Assisi