# The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Part Three

## The Resurrection

Read Matthew 27:62-28:8

#### INTRODUCTION

It is because He lives that we can gather together on Resurrection Sunday and stand in awe and wonder, celebrating the central mystery of our faith and the central tenet of our faith: the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Our Savior lives!

Our hearts and minds turn to the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 27 and 28, where we find a narrative that forever changed the course of human history and the eternal destiny of our souls.

"The next day, that followed the day of the preparation" the chief priests and Pharisees, bound by fear and disbelief,

approached Pilate with a request. They sought to make the sepulchre secure, sealing the stone and setting a watch, in an attempt to prevent the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy of His resurrection. Little did they know, their actions would only serve to underscore the power and truth of what was to come.

Then Sunday came! The dawn of the first day of the week, a moment that forever altered our understanding of life, death, and hope.

As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary approached the tomb, an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven with his countenance like lightning, rolling back the stone, not to let Jesus out, but to reveal that He was no longer there, for He was already risen.

The guards, symbols of earthly power, shook with fear and became as dead men before the angel. Yet, to the women, the angel delivered a message of joy and hope, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead" (Matthew 28:5-7).

Here is the crux of our Easter celebration (our Resurrection Day celebration): the victory of Jesus Christ over death, His resurrection as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

And this brings us to our first point...

### MAKE SURE UNTIL THE THIRD DAY

Matthew 27:62-66 "Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."

On the first day of the Sabbath, the chief priests and Pharisees made a special visit to Pilate. They had begun to worry that Jesus' disciples might try to fake a resurrection by stealing His body.

Had this happened, it would have been especially troublesome for the Sadducees, who were the majority party on the council and were the liberals of their day, for they did not believe in a literal resurrection.

They believed that when we die, we exist in spirit form only, and will never occupy a body again. If Jesus' body disappeared and people claimed He was resurrected, it would undermine the Sadducees' position.

They along with the Pharisees demand that Pilate guard the tomb, and Pilate, weary from dealing with these men, agrees to give them guards and they seal the tomb, as sure as they can.

But, ironically, these men were worried about someone faking Jesus' resurrection while in the end, with their efforts of sealing the tomb and placing the Roman guards there, they only succeeded in making Jesus' actual resurrection all the more believable.

### He Said - After Three Days I Will Rise Again

Now look at *Matthew 28:1* with me, "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."

Notice it is the same ladies who were present when Jesus' tomb was sealed that are the first to return to the tomb after the double Sabbath on Sunday. These ladies are so integral to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. God will use you if you are willing and submissive to Him.

Notice Matthew says they came to the tomb as it began to dawn on the first day of the week. The first day of the Jewish week is Sunday just as it is for us today.

### Please turn with me to Mark 16:1-2

Now technically, the Sabbath ended at 6 PM the night before, but the women did not venture outside the city walls at night without men to accompany them. So they wait until shortly before dawn on Sunday, and then Mark tells us they visited the tomb to finish the job of embalming Jesus.

Mark 16:1-2 "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome,

had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

Notice verse one where it says, "had bought sweet spices." If they came very early in the morning, which this verse says they did, then they bought these spices on Saturday right after the Sabbath ended, so after 6 pm on that Saturday these ladies went shopping and bought the "sweet spices" so they could properly bury their Lord's body. But when they arrive at the tomb at daybreak, they find it empty.

We know that Jesus told them it would be, but His followers were so shocked and disheartened by what had just occurred, that they either did not remember His teaching at that moment, did not fully comprehend it when He taught it to them, or simply did not have enough faith to believe it based on how they saw Jesus beaten and disfigured and crucified.

This goes to show us, that no matter how close you may be to Jesus, when certain events happen in your life, they can jar even the most faithful of us, and make us not see the Lord in it all, or not remember all that we have learned of Him, or forget some of His promises He has made to us in His Word.

For in *Matthew 12:40*, Jesus told them not to expect Him to be in His grave after three days, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son

of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Jesus said He would spend three nights in the grave, and after that, He would rise again, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said" (John 2:19-22).

This brings us to our next point, and...

### THE THIRD KEY TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

#### Turn with me to I Corinthians 15:3-4

In I Corinthians 15, Paul said the three essential things all Christians must know are:

- (1) that Jesus died,
- (2) that He was buried,
- (3) and that after three days He rose again.

That simple but profound three-part story is everything to our Christian faith; it defines our faith.

I Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and

that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

To this point in our study, we have looked at the first two of these three parts of Jesus' story: Jesus' death and His burial. In our message today we move to the third part: His resurrection, which is really the key to everything in the Bible.

Do you realize that if Jesus was not raised from the dead, nothing else in this book would matter?

As Paul said in I Corinthians 15, if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain because we have believed in a lie. So if Jesus' death was the end of Him (as death is for every other person), then Jesus was no different than anyone else.

But by returning to life, Jesus proved He was something else. Only God has the power over death...human beings do not possess that power. If someone can bring His own dead body back to life, He must have the power of God – **He must be God**.

If so, then what that Person says about obtaining eternal life matters. And that is why we have spent the last three weeks looking at the death, the burial, and now the resurrection, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).

So now it's time to focus our attention on the resurrection moment as Matthew explains it, and that takes us to the beginning of Chapter 28 again...

### AT DAWN THE TWO MARY'S COME TO THE TOMB

Look at *Matthew 28:1-4* again with me, "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

Matthew names Mary Magdalene specifically because she will be critical to this part of the resurrection account. But notice how Matthew refers to Jesus' mother merely as the other Mary. John and Mark both refer to this Mary as the mother of James, not the mother of Jesus.

These are just examples of how the Bible consistently downplays the significance of Mary as Jesus' earthly mother. Yes, Mary was a significant Bible character, though no different than Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Peter, or the Apostle Paul. And yes, she had the high honor of being chosen to carry the Messiah in her womb.

But Mary's importance stops at that point...Mary was no more than those things in God's plan. Mary was just a

sinner saved by grace and greatly honored by God's favor to have an important role in the Messiah's first coming.

But assigning Mary any greater theological significance than that is idolatry, and we can see how carefully Matthew avoids that here in this account.

### Moving on from that sidenote...

### They Have Come Early to Finish the Burial **Preparations**

They waited until daybreak to leave the city in safety, but they probably left at the earliest twilight, maybe as early as 4 am. They brought the spices they purchased the night before in the city after the end of the Sabbath on Saturday night.

They could have come the evening before because the double Sabbath ended at 6pm on Saturday, but they needed to buy the spices for the burial, and by the time they bought them there was no daylight at all to go back to the tomb to prepare the body with the spices, so they came as early as they could on Sunday morning.

Again, we see God's providential and sovereign hand in all of this. He made sure the year His Son was crucified and buried was the year you would have two Sabbath days in a row, thus ensuring no one would attempt to go to His tomb or disturb the body of Jesus until after His resurrection.

### Now, You Wonder What They Were Thinking

These women were very determined. They loved Jesus. They wanted to show Him as much respect as they possibly could. So they are coming back at the very first sign of daylight. Then they saw the tomb sealed with the stone so they knew it was closed.

That stone would have been far too heavy for these women to move on their own, so how did they expect to gain access to Jesus' body?

But knowing their track record in getting the impossible done, I am sure they would have figured out a way – but it turned out, they did not have to.

Mark says that as they went, they wondered aloud who would move the stone away for them. It appears they go in blind faith hoping for a miracle of some sort. No one would have blamed these women if they had said it was not worth going, it was impossible and then stayed home that day.

Everyone would have understood and probably everyone would have agreed. In fact, I suspect some of the disciples may have tried to talk these women out of going to the grave that day. So from a human perspective, there was no reason to bother going and no reason to expect the tomb to be open.

But still, these precious determined ladies went anyway...early in the morning and eagerly expecting to see Jesus' body, though without a plan. And because they did go, they were privileged to become witnesses to the greatest miracle in history.

This teaches us a great truth: this is the payoff for walking by faith...by walking by faith, you get a chance to witness God doing something amazing, something impossible, through your obedience. We've seen that here in our church many times.

Just take that step of faith, and let God take over. It is amazing what God can do with faith, even tiny faith – God can move a mountain with faith as a mustard seed.

Let's faith God and see what He wants to do for us! *Matthew 17:20* "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

If we limit our service to God to situations where we can see the path to success in advance, then we are going to miss a lot of miracles. God tells you to start a ministry, but you say there's no money, there's no time, I don't have the expertise or the ability.

No! Don't say or think any of that – just start that ministry. Just move across the country from a desert to the Atlantic coast and start that ministry.

Remember when Moses tried to use those same excuses in Exodus 4 (I can't do that, I can't talk right, no one will listen to me or follow me)...then God told Moses, I will take care of those things. God says go pray with that stranger on the park bench, but you say they will think I'm strange or that's not going to help them.

- If we only pray for the things, we think we can accomplish, then we never see what God might be prepared to accomplish.
- If we only go when the task seems doable, we'll never be used by God to do the unthinkable.
- If we only go when it makes sense to us, then we won't be there when God parts the Red Sea, or feeds the 5,000, or opens a tomb, or starts a church in Florida.

And we'll miss the point in all this... God does not need us in the first place... He is inviting us to join in the work He is going to do (with or without us). God was going to raise Jesus on this day... with or without these women. They chose to exercise faith, and they got to be witnesses to the resurrection.

To see God work that miracle, to see God use you in a greater way - you first have to be willing to walk in faith, to shut up that inner voice of reason, and to ignore the critics. Don't let them tell you, "You can't do that thing for God." If God is leading – follow, no matter what man says to you!

### An Earthquake & an Angel

Look at *Matthew 28:2* again, "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."

In verse two, Matthew tells us there was an earthquake when Jesus resurrected. Upon the death of the Son of God, there was an earthquake, and upon the resurrection of the Son of God, there was an earthquake. God marked both Jesus' death and resurrection in this way.

Next, an angel descended specifically to move the stone aside, and then the angel hung around for a while. The angel's arrival scares the Roman guards nearly to death, and they fall to the ground unconscious.

So as the women arrive, they come upon this strange scene...tomb open, guards on the ground, and an angel waiting on the stone. Can you imagine coming upon that scene?

At this point, we need to consult the other Gospels for a better picture of what happened that morning. According to the other Gospels, the first person to visit the tomb was just Mary Magdalene who came by herself.

When she arrived, the tomb was already open, but she did not investigate further...she just ran back to tell the apostles. She assumed that the body of Jesus had been stolen and she wanted to report it to the men.

Then a short time later the other Mary and Salome arrive and these two are the first to enter the empty tomb.

This is the encounter that Matthew writes about next...

### **GO QUICKLY & TELL**

Now, look at *Matthew 28:5-8* with me, "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word."

The angel greets these two women with the standard angelic greeting, "Fear not" or "Don't be afraid." I think if an angel were to appear right now in this room, those would be the first words he would have to say to us too.

After telling them not to be afraid, he then informs the women that the Lord was not in the grave because He had risen from the dead just as He promised, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen" (Matthew 28:5-6).

Then angel invites them to inspect the tomb, where they see the empty stone bench in the cave and the linen wrappings. Finally, the angel tells the women to report to the disciples telling them "he [Jesus] goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him" (v.7).

Jesus wanted His disciples to leave Jerusalem immediately to flee the Romans and the prying eyes of the Pharisees. Once up in Galilee, Jesus and His disciples could meet and talk in safety and without worry of interruption. Jesus is always looking out for our best.

While Mary and Salome are conducting the open house with the angel, Mary Magdalene is back in Jerusalem with the disciples. She is trying to convince the men that she saw Jesus' tomb open.

The men won't believe her, and they refuse to go look for themselves. Again, the women are leading this whole crucifixion and resurrection narrative. They are the main drivers of all this.

In that culture and in that day, men viewed women as unreliable witnesses and did not trust their reports. But when, a short time later, the other Mary and Salome return to the disciples to report their encounter with the angel at the tomb, they start to consider what the ladies are saying. Maybe there is something to what they are saying.

Now with a second report of an empty tomb, Peter and John decide to check out the woman's story by going to the tomb. When Peter and John get to the tomb, they find it empty, with the linen wrappings by themselves, but no angel anywhere.

### **Confirmation of the Empty Tomb**

Peter and John return to the disciples' hiding place in Jerusalem to confirm that the tomb was empty but still assuming Jesus was stolen. Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene decides to go back to the tomb a second time and when she does, she sees not one but two angels, this time, in the tomb. Notice how God was using these faithful women every step of the way.

Ladies, we need you. We need your faith. We need your encouragement. We need your gentle and sometimes not-so-gentle nudging from time to time. Men are incomplete without you. Your husband needs you.

We need your counsel. We need your spiritual intuition. There are things Melissa can sense and see, that I am sometimes slow to catch, and this whole narrative shows us that God will not hesitate to use ladies to nudge men to lead spiritually when the faith of men is lacking.

### Please turn with me to John 20:11-18

This is an exciting passage of Scripture. So after seeing these two angels at this point almost immediately now, Mary turns around to see Jesus alive outside the tomb.

John 20:11-18 "But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her,

Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her."

She is overjoyed to see Jesus alive and tries to embrace Him, but Jesus commands her not to touch Him. Instead, He tells her to report to the disciples and we assume He repeats His instructions for them to go to Galilee.

The Lord's choice to work through the women rather than the men is confirmation of something we saw last week. The women were a chain of custody proving the authenticity of Jesus' claims of death, burial, and resurrection.

Since these women were the only ones present throughout Jesus' ordeal, they were the only ones who could testify. Because they stood by Jesus during His trials, they were now privileged to be present for His triumph as well.

And His triumph was His resurrection, His victory over sin, over death, and the Devil...

### THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS THE BASIS OF OUR HOPE!

If you cannot accept the resurrection of Jesus Christ, then you will not accept His commands...you will not accept anything at all. The resurrection is the key to the Gospel...if Jesus was not raised, nothing else matters.

This is what the Christian faith requires...at the heart of our faith is the belief in these testimonies, is belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By faith in the Word of God, we believe that Jesus' resurrection is true, that He returned to life just as He promised He would. Not only did Jesus resurrect...but we believe a resurrection of some sort is going to happen to every single human being who has ever lived. One day soon, resurrection will be our experience too, and eventually it will be everyone's experience.

So let's understand just what was involved in Jesus' resurrection, that is, what happened to Jesus and to His physical body. To do this we must first define what life and death are, according to the Bible.

A living person consists of three parts, according to Scripture: we have a physical body, a spirit, and a soul (I Thessalonians 5:23). God fashioned the body of the first human being, Adam, from the dirt of the ground, literally from earth.

God gave Adam a physical body because Adam was intended to live in a physical world; but at first, Adam's physical body was lifeless...it was no more alive than the dirt from which it came.

Before his body could be alive, he needed the breath of life, so God breathed into Adam's body and Adam came to life, he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Adam's wife, Eve, came to life in a similar way...God made her body from

Adam's body and then gave her a living spirit and soul as well.

Death is just the opposite of that experience...it's the separation of the body from the soul and the spirit. At death, our soul leaves the body lifeless and immediately the body begins to disintegrate. But our spirit lives on, and where our spirit lives next depends on what we believed while we were alive.

If the person believes in Jesus as their Savior, if they believe in the Gospel, if they believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and repented of their sins and turned to Christ in faith and only faith, then God counts their faith as righteousness, and He welcomes their spirit into Heaven, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16-17).

Believers right now exist in Heaven without physical bodies while they await a future resurrection and the coming Kingdom. But if a person dies without faith in Jesus, they forever remain in their sins so they can never enter into the presence of God, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The unbeliever's spirit descends into the heart of the earth away from God and held in a place of torment called Hell, to eventually be cast in the Lake of Fire. But they too are

awaiting a future resurrection day and a judgment moment at the Great White Throne Judgment where all the unsaved sinners will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

### Please turn with me to I Corinthians 15:16-22

So we see that death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body, and therefore resurrection is the reuniting of the soul and spirit and body. A person's spirit never ceases to exist and is always conscious. Resurrection returns a spirit to a body so that the person can live in the created world again.

That is what these women reported to the disciples...Jesus' body was alive again, and it is what the Bible says will happen to each of us. As Paul told us, the resurrection of Christ is of first importance because it is the basis for our own hope.

Now look at *I Corinthians 15:16-22* "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

"In Christ shall all be made alive" – if they accept Him as their Savior. If they repent of their sins in faith believing that Jesus shed His blood and died for their sins, and that He was buried, and that He rose on the third day victorious over sin, death, and the Devil, in Christ they shall be made alive, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

So even as Jesus' resurrection was a miracle, He was just the first, and the hope of the Christian faith is that we will follow Him one day! Will you follow Him? Is He your Savior?

### **CONCLUSION**

Now, as we reflect on Resurrection Sunday, let us anchor our hearts and minds in the divine proclamation that forever altered the course of humanity and eternity itself.

Hearken unto the words that shattered the chains of death and sin, "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." "He is not here: for He is risen!" The tomb is empty! He is not there! We serve a risen and eternally living Savior!

This resurrection account here in Matthew is not merely a historical narrative to inspire the fainthearted. No, this is the very power of God unto salvation! *Romans 10:9* says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The resurrection is the key.

The empty tomb is the eternal testament to the Lord Jesus Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. A victory not just witnessed in the annals of history but one that reverberates through every generation, calling each of us to a life transformed.

As we bask in the glory of our risen Lord, let us not be spectators of this divine triumph. The resurrection is a clarion call to action, a summons to arise from the slumber of complacency and to clothe ourselves in the armor of God.

For it is faith, faith in Jesus, faith in His death, burial, and His resurrection that gives us the victory! For in Christ's victory, we are more than conquerors, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Yet, this victory demands our participation. It beckons us to live in the reality of the resurrection, to embody its power in our daily lives, and to proclaim its truth to a world ensnared by the shadows of despair and sin.

Let us, therefore, be agents of this resurrection power. In a world that preaches the gospel of self, and in a world that preaches the gospel of sin, let us boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ:

- Who triumphed over the grave!
- Who triumphed over sin!
- Who triumphed over the forces of evil and the Devil!

In the face of trials, let us hold fast to the hope of our calling, for He who conquered death itself is our everpresent help and strength. **Psalm 46:1**, one of my favorite verses in the whole Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

To those who are weighed down by sin, those who doubt the power of God to transform lives, look to the empty tomb. It stands as an eternal witness that:

- no sin is too great,
- no chain too strong,
- and no darkness too deep that the light of Christ cannot penetrate and overcome. *Psalm 107:14* "He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder."

### He is risen! He is not here, the tomb is empty, He is risen!

- This is the very essence of our faith,
- the bedrock of our hope,
- and the source of our strength.

Therefore, let us go forth from this place not just as hearers of the Word but as doers of the divine commission. Let us live with resurrection power, displaying the love, grace, and victory of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- in every word that we speak,
- in every action that we take,

 and in every life that we touch, in His name, and for His glory!

May the power of Christ's resurrection fuel our passion for the Gospel, embolden our witness, and fortify our commitment to His cause.

For if Christ be risen, then there is no room for lukewarm faith! Let's not be lukewarm, commit today to be all in. No more messing around. Fully commit yourself to the Lord today, this morning, right now!

If Christ be risen, then let us rise with Him in newness of life, triumphing over sin, death, and the devil by the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Let this truth resound not only in the echoes of our worship but in the very fabric of our lives.