

The Essentials of Discipleship 3: Rising with the Living Lord

Last time we looked the cross of Jesus and what he did for us there. This time we look at the resurrection of Jesus and its consequences for our lives.

Part 1: Talking about the resurrection of Jesus.

- Why do people find the resurrection of Jesus so hard to believe?

Read Luke 24.1-12 and 24.36-43

- What evidence do these stories contain that Jesus rose from the dead?
- What questions are you left with by the resurrection stories?
- How would you explain to a non-Christian why the resurrection of Jesus should matter to them?
- In what sense do we meet the risen Christ today?

Part 2: Thinking about the consequences of the resurrection

Not all Jews in Jesus day believed in the resurrection of the dead as it is not a major theme in the OT (see Daniel 12.1-4, 12-13). But Jesus agreed with the Pharisees (against the Sadducees) that there will be a final great 'resurrection of the dead'. (Mark 12.18-27). By contrast Jesus' own resurrection is often called the 'resurrection *from* (amongst) the dead' - the taking of Jesus from amongst the group call 'the dead'.

The NT draws two major conclusions about the resurrection of Jesus:

- The 'not yet' conclusion of hope: we have a future bodily resurrection to look forward to.
- The 'already' conclusion of new life: we are raised to new life with and through Jesus now.

Read 2 Corinthians 4.16-5.10

- What is the main thrust of this passage?
- Why does Paul use the language of tents and buildings? What is the language of nakedness and clothing about?
- What other contrasts help us to see the goodness of what is to come?
- What guarantee do we have that there are better things to come?
- How good are we are living in hope?

Read Romans 6.1-14

- How is the pattern of Christ imitated in the life of the believer?
- What has happened to the 'old self'?
- What is the relationship between death and sin here(v7, 10)?
- When are we expected to live with Christ?
- What does it mean in practice to have been brought from death to life? Are we

expected to be completely free from sin?

- How does believing in the resurrection help us with our discipleship?

Part 3: For further study

The NT has very little to say about life after death (ie. life between death and resurrection). In the OT the shades of the dead are taken to Sheol or Hades.

- Below are four of the most important NT texts on the subject. What conclusions might we draw for believers?

Luke 16. 19-31; 23.39-43; Philippians 1.21-26; Revelation 6.9-11.