**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 4-17-2022 (10:10AM Easter Service)
Jesus Is Risen, Just as He Said**

Every election cycle, the incumbent, the person running for reelection, seems to always share about how they promised to do this and that and they came through.

Now this may or may not be true, but that is the message that is consistently conveyed when people are running for reelection. I promised this and that and the other thing. And look what I have accomplished. Vote for me again. That is the basic line.

But truly, keeping one’s promises matters a lot, doesn’t it? And it is not just for politicians. It matters for everyone. For me. For you. It builds trust. It builds faith in the person as reliable.

Today is the most important day of the year friends, because today, many years ago, Jesus delivered on what He had promised. He had told His followers multiple times that He would not only be put to death, but that He would rise from the dead after His suffering. He even told them that it would be raised on the third day.

In fact, those that opposed Jesus were even aware of Jesus making this promise and do they post guards at the tomb just to make sure that it doesn’t happen?

But on Easter Sunday, Jesus delivered on His promise. Jesus was raised to life. The large stone had been rolled away and Jesus was out.

We read in the gospels of the female disciples first seeing Jesus and then there are other followers that Jesus meets on the road.

Finally, Jesus comes to the large group of disciples gathered together. These men were in fear and confusion, still trying to make sense of everything and not knowing what to make of the reports of the woman and the others.

But then, our Lord comes to them Himself. We can find this in **Luke 24:36-47**

**36While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”**

**37They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39Look 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.”**

**40When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate it in their presence.**

**44He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”**

**45Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

I just love this passage. Jesus greets them with the words “Peace be with you.” Most likely Jesus would have simply said the word “Shalom.”

Shalom is such a rich word. Shalom represents God’s peace and safety and wholeness and completeness.

All these things were available to the disciples because Jesus had delivered on His promise.

But even with Jesus standing among them, they struggled to believe and to experience the peace of God offered to them.

They were afraid and thought that perhaps this was even a ghost. Remember, these men either saw Jesus die or they were told that He died from those that saw Him die.

These disciples had seen Jesus do many amazing things, including raise at least three others back to life. Yet, they still doubted that Jesus would come through on His promise.

But there He was, standing with them. And after speaking His word of peace over them, Jesus says:

**“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39Look 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.”**

In other words, this is me! See where the nail marks are. I’m the same Jesus. I am physically alive.

And if that wasn’t enough, just to give them another sign, He asks if there is any food and they give Him some broiled fish and He eats it in their presence.

But even more than the nail marks and the eating of the food, Jesus points them to the Scriptures. He tells them,**“This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**

Jesus is saying that there were promises about Him throughout the Old Testament. Scholars believe that Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies or predictions from the Old Testament.

This was true from His birth, all the way to His death and resurrection. The only Person who has the “credentials” to be the Messiah, the Son of God, God in the flesh, is Jesus Christ. Period.

Again, we think of politicians. They make a few promises and we hope that they keep at least some of them. But long before Jesus took on flesh, there were hundreds of promises about Jesus from the Old Testament as well as numerous things that Jesus said that He would do --- all of which came to pass.

Jesus is reliable. God’s Word is trustworthy. And nowhere is this most clear than the fact of the resurrection.

And so Jesus opens their minds to understand the Scriptures:

**He tells them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

And it is at this point that everything finally falls into place for the disciples. And this group of followers would go on to boldly share the good news of Jesus far and wide.

So friends, what is the big take away from this passage from Luke’s Gospel?

**I believe that it is to put our trust in Jesus**. What He said He would do, He did. What the Bible said He would do, He did.

He doesn’t need to be reelected. He is King forever. But He is worthy of our allegiance, our trust, our confidence.

Friends, Jesus is the perfect King. If we have never put our trust in Him, today is the perfect day to allow His peace, His shalom, to overtake you and to find rest for your soul.

If you put your trust in Jesus before, but find yourself having drifted away from a close walk with Him, today, friends, is the perfect day to say again, “My trust is in You, Lord.”

But for all of us today, even if we have followed Jesus for many years, every day is a new opportunity to put our trust in Him.

Jesus is faithful. Jesus promises to be with us always.

What are you going through this year? This month? Whatever it might be, Jesus is the answer. Trusting in Him and following Him is the answer.

All of God’s written Word is meant to point to Jesus and to strengthen our walk with Jesus. I pray that as we take a moment each day to sit before God through His Word, remember that Jesus is at the center.

With Jesus, it is always – promises made and promises kept.

He is risen! He is risen indeed. Just as He says. Halleluiah.

Resources:

<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/inherit/what-is-shalom-the-true-meaning>

<https://www.josh.org/jesus-fulfill-prophecy/?mwm_id=496610987446&mot=J79GNF&gclid=CjwKCAjw6dmSBhBkEiwA_W-EoCZokT9XXPryQlJe1zk0vS_o2aJKXrclWdvvL6DRXykNQzIyQ1eGwBoC2k8QAvD_BwE>

The Screwtape Letters – C.S. Lewis

<https://redemptionchurchga.com/jesus-foretells-death-resurrection/>