

Easter Sunday at PVIC - 04/16/17

## Period Between Death and Resurrection (Outline)

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### Introduction

Can we read a Scripture this morning from 1 Pet. 3:18 and 19, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison...”

Question: When we come to Christ and turn our lives over to him, shouldn't our problems be over? Why is it certain problems linger; just don't go away?

Answers: 1) Although you've left the camp of the Devil, you've taken and carried with you somethings that belong to him – it could be a substance, a habit or a certain part of your life style, or even certain people;

(2) God is cleansing you, shaking off everything that needed to be gone - you are being perfected and strengthened through tests and trials.

The one that I want to share with you this morning is a purpose driven reason – We'll all agree that God has called each of us for a specific purpose. In order to use us for that purpose, sometimes God might shake our smooth sailing ship and drop us in the water, and let us drown even up to our necks, just to let us feel the struggle of thousands who drown under similar circumstances every day!

### Period between burial and resurrection

Let me draw your attention this morning to the tomb of Christ, where the dead body of the Son of God has been buried! His death was on Friday night, his resurrection was on Sunday morning. The message I want to share with you this morning is neither about the death of Christ, nor of his resurrection; but about the time between His death and his resurrection! Jesus has been buried! The whole ritual is complete. His enemy is celebrating their victory. And his followers, friends and left the scene in despair!

### Spirit of God gives life to the dead body

But the Bible says, there was something amazing took place. Peter who was an eye witness of the resurrected Lord says in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18, “He was put to death in the body, but made alive by the Spirit.....” As soon as the Roman soldiers closed the tomb with a huge stone in front of it, separating him from his jubilant enemies, as well as the grieving friends and family, the Spirit of God came down on Him and made his dead body alive. Saint Paul has noted it in Acts 2:27, quoting Psalms 16:10, “you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your holy one see decay.”

### Perfect opportunity for self-sympathizing

He knew that his appointed time of resurrection is not due until Sunday morning. Then what was he doing during this time – from Friday night to Sunday morning inside that closed tomb? Was he spending that time to pity party by himself? Complaining about the people for whom he came down, but rejected him; about his own disciples; about his family, and so on! He could have chosen to complain and question, ‘what is the purpose

of even coming out of this tomb....' I clearly can see the experience that Jesus went through calls for a great pity party... We do for much less problems we go through!

#### Jesus went down and set the captives free

The same Scripture that said, (Read 1Pet. 3:18,19) "He was put to death in the body, but made alive by the Spirit....." also says, through the same Spirit he also went and preached to the spirits in captivity." In that tomb, it was time of his captivity. He was held captive for three days. But he did not allow his physical captivity to keep him down spiritually or emotionally! He is already down in the grave, but in his low state, he went down even lower to those who were in his own condition, or even worse than himself to set them free! Peter says, he went down to proclaim the good news to the captives. Paul says in Eph. 4:8-9 that he went down to the lower earthly regions during this time to set the captives free.

#### How could Jesus minister while he himself was bot free?

I can give you several reasons. However, the most direct answer Jesus himself given is in Luke 4:18, "the spirit of God is upon me, and I have the anointing to preach the Gospel to the poor, and proclaim freedom to the captives." Yes, this is where you and I, also become able to resemble the experience of Jesus and follow his example. The same Spirit, that was upon Jesus is also given to us! We read in Rom. 8:11, "...it is the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you..." Since we have the same Spirit upon us, there is no tomb that can contain us; there is no captivity that can keep us down! However, we have the choice, either to pity party, feeling depressed thinking about all the negatives in life, or to get up and start witnessing, and help somebody who is going through the same or worse situations than ourselves!

#### Conclusion

There will be times in all of our lives we will feel like we've been buried - by our circumstances, defeated by those who wanted to see our demise; even abandoned, betrayed, and denied by those whom you have counted on! You might feel like you have been shut in! Walls are closing in! You are all alone... The anguish, the loneliness and the pain of rejection would make you feel like your skin is peeling off with pain, bones are about to break, muscles are giving out - you are about to decay!

It is in this most difficult time that you have to make the choice, either to give up; or to rise up, shake off the dust and preach to yourself first like David, (Ps. 103:1-6 "Praise the Lord, all my soul.. ) The very next thing you to do is to look around for those who are buried deeper than you, in worse condition than you are, locked up in their misery, but waiting for a breakthrough – you must go down to them and set them free one by one! I also want to remind you, your day of resurrection is coming – your Sunday morning is coming! Your ministry to the captives is most effective while you're in captivity! For sure, you are coming out – the only question is, how many are coming out with you?

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