

Life Center
Sunday, April 20, 2014

Changin the Story Line: For the Joy

Last Week – Lynchburg VA

RESURRECTION POWER About two months ago, Jake was eating a meal when he heard a disruption out in the street. He went out and found a woman passed out on the street due to what they would later find out was a drug overdose. She had died and had no pulse and was not breathing. Jake knelt down, took her head in his hands and began praying in tongues. The crowd was asking, "Is she Ok? Is she OK?" and Jake would reply "She is going to be fine." One person close by had seen that she did not have a pulse and that she was dead. They said, "**Stop lying** to the people and tell them she is dead." Jake continued to pray in tongues and before the ambulance arrived she suddenly started breathing again and was raised from the dead!

Now the Revival Scene meets in Plettenberg Bay every sunday and already has over 30 members. Everyone in the region has heard of the amazing miracles that have been taking place and it is provoking them to hunger.

Last week they met a woman on the street who was lame and had no movement in her legs at all. She used crutches and dragged her feet behind her. Jake prayed for her and in front of a crowd of about 40 people she was totally healed and walked away in front of them all! Jake was then able to preach the gospel to the crowd and saw people get born again because of it!

Then there was a man sitting on the curb who's legs were totally lame and useless. His knees basically locked together with stiffness because of lack of use. The Lord had Jake lay hands on his legs and then pry his legs apart, and then say get up and walk in the name of Jesus! He not only got up and walked, but ran and jumped and praised Jesus!!!!

Thursday Evening Eric Smith – Older man crippled by a stroke.

The Rewrite: Joy Motivated New Creation

Heb 12:2 NIV Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him** endured the cross, **scorning** its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the **throne of God**.

A Renewed Mind... Let This Mind Be in You...!

Pessimism! ~Tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen, the world falling apart, evil will ultimately prevail over good.

The Resurrection and the Abundance Mind.

Rewriting the Finality of Death

John 11:24 NIV Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me **will never die**. Do you believe this?"

Destruction of Death

Phil 2:5 NKJ Let this **mind** be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Destroying Selfish Ambition

"I will ascend..." is defeated by "I will descend..."

Isa 14:13 ESV ... 'I will ascend to heaven
I will exalt my throne...

14 ... I will make myself like the Most High.'

Phil 2:7 ESV... but **emptied himself**, 8 ... **humbled himself ... obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross. "who for us humans and our salvation, came down from Heaven..."

HE **DESCENDED** so WE could **ASCEND** WITH HIM!

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name

Destroying Manipulation through FEAR of Death (Loss)

John 19:15 ESV ... “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, **“We have no king but Caesar.”**

Heb 2:14 NIV Since the children have flesh and blood, he too ***shared in their humanity*** so that ***by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death***—that is, the devil— 15 and ***free*** those who all their lives were ***held in slavery by their fear*** of death.

At 32 John Paton accepted the call to missionary service in the New Hebrides in the South Pacific. In March 1858 he married Mary Ann Robson, and on April 16 they sailed together for the cannibal island of Tanna. (Today Vanuatu - a Christian Nation)

In less than a year they had built a little home and Mary had given birth to a son. But on March 3, 1859, one year after their marriage, Mary died of the fever, and in three weeks the infant son died. John Paton buried them alone, and wrote, “But for Jesus ... I must have gone mad and died beside that lonely grave.”

One of the gifts that Jesus had given him to sustain him in those days were the words his wife spoke shortly before her death. She did not murmur against God, or resent her husband bringing her there. Rather she spoke these incredible words — ***“I do not regret leaving home and friends. If I had it to do over, I would do it with more pleasure, yes, with all my heart”***

Every claim against humanity – cancelled!

Col 2:13 ESV And you, who were dead in your trespasses ..., God ***made alive together with him***, having ***forgiven us all our trespasses***, 14 by ***cancelling the record of debt*** that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, ***nailing it to the cross***. 15 He ***disarmed the rulers and authorities*** and ***put them to open shame***, by ***triumphing*** over them in him.

Separation from God – Cancelled!

[Matt 27:50 ESV](#) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. [51](#) And behold, **the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.** And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

In His Passion & Death, He Swallowed up all evil...

Religious treachery, hypocrisy and politics
Betrayal & Abandonment by his friends
Pilate's fears for personal career & survival
Injustice and abuse at an outrageous level
Suffered under demonized drunken sadists
Anger, mocking & hopelessness

The ReWrite: He responded with

1. **Forgiveness** – Father, forgive them Luke 23.34
2. **Friendship** – Today, you'll be with me Luke 23.43
3. **Family** – Dear woman, here is your son John 19.26
4. Devotion – Eli, Eli, lama sabbachthani Mark 15.34
5. Thirst – I am thirsty John 19.28
6. Confidence – ***It is finished*** John 19.30
7. **Commitment** – Father, into your hands Luke 23.46

FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM!

The SHIFT

- Destroyed Death on the 6th Day
- Took the Keys of Hell and Death on the 7th Day
- **Released the New Creation on the 8th Day!**
- Shattering the **No Hope** World that Most Know!

We are Held Back by False Impressions ... Until we Catch Up With The Joy-Filled Mind of Christ

1. Tendency to Accept Immovable Barriers

[Mark 16:2 NIV](#) Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb [3](#) and they asked

each other, **“Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”**

4 But when they looked up, they saw that **the stone**, which was very large, **had been rolled away**.

2. Tendency to Look For Things Which No Longer Exist

Luke 24:5 NIV In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember ... 8** Then they **remembered** his words.

3. The Tendency to Panic

John 20:2 NIV [Mary Magdalene] came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, **“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”**

4. Tendency to Get Stuck in Loss

11 but **Mary stood outside the tomb crying**.

15 “Woman,” he said, **“why** are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” **Thinking he was the gardener**, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, **tell me where you have put him**, and I will get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, **“Mary.”** She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

HE CALLS OUR NAME!

6. Tendency to Disappointment ~ “It’s Over”

Luke 24:21 NIV but **we had hoped** that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **MIRACLES**

31 **Then their eyes were opened** and they recognized him, and **he disappeared** from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

HE STIRS OUR HEARTS & OPENS OUR EYES

7. *Survivalism* — "We're Next!"

John 20:19 NIV On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace** be with you!" 20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were **overjoyed** when they **saw** the Lord.

(Luke 24:41 ...they still **did not believe it because of joy and amazement**, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.)

21 Again Jesus said, "**Peace** be with you! As the **Father** has **sent** me, **I am sending you.**" 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**"

HE GIVES US UNQUALIFIED PEACE (Back to Eden)

COMMISSIONS US INTO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE

PARTICIPATION IN THE TRINITY

Two Things to Remember

1. One Key – Faith (all things are possible)

John 20:24 ESV Now Thomas, ..., was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see ... and place my finger ... and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." 26 **Eight days later**, ... 27 He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**"

INVITES US INTO UNCOMFORTABLE INTIMACY & FAITH

2. One Standard – Love

Turns our **frustration** into **success**

John 21:4 ESV Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "**Children, do you have any fish?**" They answered him,

"No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and **you will find some.**" So they cast it, and now they were **not able to haul it in**, because of the quantity of fish.

John 21:15 ESV When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me** more than these?" ... 16 ... a second time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" ... 17 ... the third time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" ... Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

FAILURE IS NOT AN ISSUE... LOVE IS ... it casts out FEAR

God is Love. Love is Holy. With God, All Things are Possible!

Do you Love Me? Is our Mind the Mind of Love

Repentance (Changing our thinking & living)

Heb 12:2 NIV Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him** endured the cross, **scorning** its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the **throne** of **God**.

**Immovable Barriers, Living with Defeat, Panic, Getting Stuck,
Disappointment, Survivalism —**

Replaced with **ABUNDANCE**

**Overflowing Cup of Life— the Spirit & the Bride say to
ALL who are thirsty, "Come!" And let him who hears
say...**

Rodney Stark Triumph of Christianity +40% of World

The Victory Shout!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

He's Alive! I'm Alive! It's Only Just Begun...

In the Resurrection Jesus blew the lock off the prison of death and gloom and returned to the gladness of God. He opened the Way

From the right hand of God he speaks to everyone of us today and invites us to **the never-ending banquet:**

“I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst

... I am the resurrection and the life; **he who believes in me**, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?”