

Could He be Your Resurrection

by Pastor Kurt Hoover

Could He be Litany based on Psalm 43

Leader: I sought the Lord, and he answered me

All: and delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: Those who look to him are radiant,

All: and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Leader: This poor child cried, and the Lord heard me

All: and saved me out of all my troubles.

Leader: The angel of the Lord encamps

All: around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Leader: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

All: Blessed is the child who takes refuge in him!

Ezekiel 37:11-14 ¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-49 ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

John 6:14-29 ¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." ²³ And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." ²⁴ And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." ²⁵ And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷ And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸ and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. – 1 Cor 15:45

1 Corinthians 15 is Paul's treatise on resurrection. Not something that will happen some day but has already happened for him and us.

Daily you die to self and are resurrected to new life! This is not a scary proposition but a normal experience for the Christian.

When is the last time you stood in a room with a newborn? Have you ever been in the hospital room for a birth? Some of you have experienced the wonder of a child slowly but surely forming in your womb.

Just as real and amazing as the miracle of our human creation (which we often take for granted) ... just as real and amazing is the miracle of your first birth is the miracle of being reborn into the image, and hope and confidence of Christ himself. You have already experienced the resurrection of the dead. That part of you that goes on for eternity is alive and well right now in union with Christ.

Herod sat in his throne room – the concerns of maintaining his power and influence all around him in the faces of his court filled with representatives of various cities, special interests and powerful families.

Report after report had come to his ear of the newsworthy miracles performed by the disciples of a teacher and prophet named Jesus.

There was no ignoring it anymore. The buzz was alive among even the powerful people. For some it was a novelty, the latest curiosity. For others it stirred in them a sense of hope, they too had loved ones in similar situations as those being healed. For many of them they had to admit that they had weights on their minds that needed forgiving. The prospect of finding repentance, a new beginning, a release from shame and guilt ... this was intriguing. Especially as they hear the stories of joy and passion of those who had been healed and forgiven. If they

can do that, in that remote village, my town, my life, my family, my situation might be next.

Some welcomed the news if not with Hope, curiosity. For others it brought fear. A loss of power and influence. A disruption to the rules and obligations that kept their wealth flowing and place in society secure.

And then there was Herod. Who had no doubt in his mind that God had resurrected John the Baptist whom he had killed... in innocent blood. Well, not legally innocent – John had committed treason against the King and his wife. What he said was true, Herodotus was his brother's wife, this was adultery... even worse incest. But, also treason to cause the King to lose face.

But what Herod knew in his heart was that in God's eyes, from God's perspective John deserved to live. There was something different about John. He spoke the truth with no fear for his life. Almost as if he had no fear of dying. Almost as if he had been promised something so great that he could not die. What makes a person so bold, what is that spirit alive in John that compelled Herod. Even before the whole slander of his second wife, Herod was driven to hear the preacher preach. Captivated by the message of repentance and freedom. He didn't like what he had to say, and yet it gave him comfort, it gave him hope!

Herod knew there was something different about John, and now there were dozens of others just like him traveling through out his Kingdom giving the same message of repentance, new life, forgiveness, freedom from sin and guilt ...and freedom from the constant battle for perception and power.

Herod was sacred to death! He had cut off the head of his adversary and in its place a dozen more heads came to life. For Herod Jesus wasn't just some prophet, he wasn't Elijah. He was the living reincarnation of this man who bore the very image of God, A life giving Spirit in human form, It was John The Baptist, who he saw dead (unmiskably)... resurrected from the dead.

Herod sat on his throne in the cool of the evening, dim torches barely illuminating the face of each person who entered the room. The smell of his own sweat tinged with a new type of anxiety filling his nostrils. The taste of the evenings' wine still on his lips promising to give further escape, but never quite quitting his fear and anticipation. Herod sat on his throne in anticipation that the next man to round the corner and confront him would be no other then John the Baptist risen from the dead.

The only thing that the King in all of his power and responsibility did not doubt... was the resurrection was not only possible, but that John the Baptist was now alive (with the very essence of God breathed spirit and life that surpassed every element of his power) ... John was alive in Jesus as the news made more and more clear to him that day.

Somehow in the midst of all his fear, his guilt, ... he knew what he deserved after all... somehow in the midst of all his fear he wanted to see this man again. Later when he sought Jesus death, he also expected to see him perform a miraculous sign.

Unlike the Kings and rulers of our day, King Herod had no doubt that resurrection was not only possible, but that he was witnessing it.

Herod was captivated by this Spirit filled resurrected power at work in these people creating healing and change.

You are those resurrected people today! Resurrected from the hum drum struggles for survival and power in flesh and Spirit. Your body and soul have already been resurrected to eternity! You bear the image of heaven, the image of Christ.

Let us acknowledge with humility and thanksgiving that we have already experienced the miracle of resurrection.

Only in the last 100 years has there been so much focus on the end times, the rapture, that day when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. The concept of resurrection has been relegated to an experience we might someday experience, if we have been good enough. This is the uneducated superstition as well as the Bible students and prayer warriors' assumption.

Resurrection is something that I will experience someday. Or for the intellectual it is simply a metaphor for starting fresh and there is no eternal me to be resurrected after this body dies.

However for Paul and Ezekiel and the early church - resurrection was a regularly anticipated and experienced reality. The death of self figuratively, and the death of one's identity actually. The eternal struggle to dominate your flesh and Spirit handed over to God.

The perishable putting on the imperishable. A shift from valuing the material elements of our lives. What is under our control. Being awakened to a far deeper reality that we have been afloat in the whole time.

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. – 1 Cor 15:45

⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (vs. 48-49)

When God promises Ezekiel - *And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, (37:14)*. This is not mere metaphor but a description of our experience of God. This is our reality. We have been reborn children of God, children of Spirit, the image of heaven...

**Because of Jesus - You do have the Hope of the resurrection!
Daily you die to self and are resurrected to new life! This is not a scary proposition but a normal experience for you!**

**You have already experienced the resurrection of the dead.
That part of you that goes on for eternity is alive and well right now in union with Christ.**

You are the Spirit filled resurrected power people of today!