

Six ways the bodily resurrection of Jesus changes our lives now

3. The resurrection of Jesus means we think of money differently

The coronavirus crisis will impact all of us financially. Some in the church family have been furloughed. Others have big concerns for their future income. Many of our brothers and sisters across the world are struggling to put food on the table. As a church we will want to do all we can to provide for those in most need.

How do we decide, both as individuals and as a church, how to use the money that God entrusts to us? Let me suggest how the bodily resurrection of Jesus transforms the way we think about money compared with others. Here is an extract from Luke 24v36-43, after Jesus has died:

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look 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.” ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while 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.

Jesus clearly wanted his fearful disciples to understand that he has a new, physical body. He appealed to their physical senses: they could hear his voice, see him and touch his body. And he enjoyed a fish supper! Jesus has a new physical resurrection body, designed for life in a new physical creation. And Jesus’ resurrection is the ‘firstfruits’, so all who trust in Christ will one day enjoy life in new physical bodies, enjoying a new physical creation.

So, those who love Christ now are headed for life which is better by far than life in this world. We will enjoy the beauty and wonder of a new physical creation, but without the destructive effects of sin which causes even the best experiences of this world to perish, spoil and fade. As we say to our children, ‘don’t worry about missing out on a trip to Barbados, we will have all eternity to explore God’s amazing creation’.

This understanding of the glorious blessings of a new physical life to come underpin Jesus’ consistent warnings about how we handle money now: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...(where coronavirus can instantly change your financial situation)...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt 6v19-21).

So, let us Thank God for the many ways he provides for our needs here and now and for the many good things he gives us to enjoy. He is generous and provides richly for our enjoyment! (1 Tim 6v17).

Daily Devotions – 15.04.2020

Let us confess to God, acknowledging those ways in which we use what he gives us solely for our experience, our enjoyment now, rather than being generous and willing to share.

Let us ask God to teach us through this corona crisis how we should use his money. Ask Him how can I best use what you have given me to give others the eternal enjoyment of God's goodness in the new physical creation?