



# LIFE

*Right On Time!*

Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.

*John 14:6*

Easter Sermon Notes 2011: Pastor Barry Bruce see other sermons at [thewayout.org](http://thewayout.org)

## "He Has Risen!"

*Matthew 28:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8, 13-22*

This morning is about the greatest war ever fought and the most awesome victory ever won! The records (The Gospels) report that Jesus not only claimed to be the "Son of God" (literally: the seed/ mirror image of God) but He fulfilled well over 100 prophecies that demonstrated that fact. **But that wasn't enough....**

Those that walked with Him, ate with him, followed Him and took notes on Him, reported as eye witnesses that He: changed water into wine, healed the sick, made the blind to see, cleansed the lepers, fed 5,000 with a handful of bread and fish, walked on the water, calmed a storm, and raised people from the dead! **But that wasn't enough...**

His enemies surrounded Him, His friends deserted Him, the authorities mocked Him, kings made sport of Him, the Romans crucified Him, and the Father God forsook Him... **But that wasn't enough!**

It wasn't enough that He smiled on a hateful world with love unspeakable, that He came to serve and took upon Himself the sin of us all. **No, it would not be enough if that was all He did, because even when a lover dies he's dead, and even when a Hero dies He's dead! And yes, even when a leader dies (no matter how well he led) dead is dead!**

**BUT HE ROSE!** He rose up from the grave. He triumphed over death! If Jesus be not raised from the dead then we Christians are to be pitied above all other humans, *(because we seek to live a life to please Him)* **but the grave was empty!**

## Too Late? *Matthew 28:16-17, John 11:1-44*

In Matthews gospel we read that even after His disciples saw Him "some doubted". This is reminiscent of those Jews who saw the Red Sea part *(and the Egyptians destroyed by the closing up of the same)* only to doubt that God would bring them into the promised land a short time later. *(Exodus 14:10-29, Numbers 13:26-14:11)*

These disciples had seen Jesus raise another man from the dead just a short time earlier. His name was Lazarus. That was, to say, their Red Sea experience, and yet they doubted that the one who raised Lazarus could raise up Himself? **Man always doubts, even in the face of bell ringing truth!**

The story of Lazarus says that when Jesus heard that His good friend Lazarus was sick He stayed where He was for two extra days. Now to Martha and Mary this made no sense, but Jesus knew all along what He was going to do. "This sickness will not end in death", He said, but Lazarus did die!

**In the face of reason Jesus spoke unreasonably on faith.** "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him." To Mary and Martha Jesus was too late. Lazarus had been dead for four days by the time Jesus arrived, but again Jesus speaks to Martha on the knowledge of what He came to do. **"I am the resurrection and the life He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."** He then asked Martha to state her faith: "Do you believe this?", Jesus said.

## "Do You Believe This?"

**Do you believe this? This Jesus who calmed an angry sea? Can He calm the restlessness in your soul? Do you believe this? That this Jesus who made the blind see can help you to see a way out of your pain and sorrow? Do you believe this? That this Jesus can take your sin diseased life, dead as Lazarus stinking in the grave, and raise you up with new life?**

"Do you believe this?", Jesus asked Martha. "Yes, Lord.", she told Him", and then she told Him why she should believe such things of Him. If I asked you this morning if you believe that Christ can do these things in your life, you might also agree and give me Jesus credentials like Martha did.,; but Jesus is not content with lip service. Not from Martha...not from me and you.

## "Take away the stone." *2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:2*

**Jesus commanded Martha, who said that she believed, to take action in her faith.** "Take away the stone", Jesus said. She, like each of us made excuses: "But Lord, he stinks! "But Lord, he's been dead for four days!" How long have you been dead, friend? **Jesus reminded Martha of His promise: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"** Do you want to see God's glory?

## No Other Way *John 14:6*

Do you believe in Jesus today? Do you believe He rose from the dead? Do you believe that He can raise you up from your life's dark tomb? **Each Easter so many flock to church to celebrate His resurrection only to doubt Him and return to the dead parts of their lives. Jesus said He was the only way, the only truth, and there is only life in Him. Do you want this life? Then take away the stone of disbelief.** Step out on faith and embrace Christ today, and you will see the glory of God. **His offer for life is right on time. Now is the time for salvation! There is life in none other. Give your life to Him.**