



Sermon Growth Guide

April 17, 2022

Redemption



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Romans 10:8-13

Key Verse: Romans 10:9 “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Big Idea: Christ is risen from the grave, offering life to all who call upon His name.

Foundations

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!

After Jesus’ ascension to the Father, as the disciples reflected on all that had happened, they recalled quickly and clearly that Jesus had been prophesying His resurrection well before His arrest. When Jesus was standing over the dead body of his best friend Lazarus, Jesus looks directly at Martha and cries out for all to hear, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die,” (John 11:25).

Jesus, just moments ago dead on a cross, the cursed tree, is alive! Death could not hold Him. You are redeemed through the blood of Christ.

How do you cash-in on your redemption? “Not by works, so that no one can boast,” (Ephesians 2:9). Rather, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved,” (Romans 10:9).

We live in a time where one can feel a great decay happening all around us. All around us, except at the Cross of Christ. At the Cross of Christ, by faith, you are forgiven and freed, you are brought to eternal life, death is reversed, you are redeemed.

Jesus, our Hope, is alive! Only believe; only trust. O, may you celebrate and give thanks well this Resurrection Sunday!

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Romans 10:8-13

What is the formula for salvation given in Romans 10:9?

In verse 12, what does the phrase “for there is no difference between Jew and Gentile” mean for us today?

What exactly is the blessing that the believer looks forward to within verses 12 and 13?

Applying God’s Word

Romans 10:9 states that “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

What’s harder for you, declaring with your mouth or believing in your heart? Host a discussion on how you can press into the faith-growth the Spirit so eagerly desires to work throughout the entirety of your life.

Witnessing God’s Word

As one who places your faith in God, you are one who walks in the Resurrection Life. Every decision you make ought to be through the gratuitous lens of the Resurrection. How can your Life Group encourage you to see life through Resurrection eyes all the more?

It is Easter! Hooray! We made it! Doesn't it feel that way? The days are getting longer, the sun is getting warmer. It has been a long winter. Maybe, just maybe, the springtime is finally here. We made it. It is Easter. He is risen! (He is risen indeed). Now, what do colored eggs have to do with all that? What do plastic grass and pastel candies and chocolate bunnies have to do with all that? Do you know? It's just by coincidence. Easter is in the spring for us on the northern hemisphere. Spring is a time we hope. We hope that the soil will warm up in the sun. We hope the dormant bulbs will burst up and sprout blossoms again. We hope trees will come out of their dead season with buds and flowers. We hope our grass will grow! Not likely. Not without help. We hope spring is here, and bunnies will hop around and do their bunny business, and the colors will break out, and eggs that look dead will break open with fuzzy little chicks! New life. The long winter is over. We hope. We hope.

But that's just a coincidence on the calendar. Better than the grass that springs up from the dead soil, better than the tulips and daffodils that break out of the dead bulbs under the earth, better even than the fuzzy chicks that peck their way out of their eggs, better still is this: the tomb of Jesus Christ is empty. The stone is tossed away from the opening. The cold, dark grave is left behind because Jesus Christ our Lord is risen from the dead! And he has won the victory. And all who call on him can follow in his way and have life.

We have been talking this year about Redemption and what it means to say that we are redeemed and that Jesus is our Redeemer. Redemption is the language of the marketplace. Somebody bought something. Somebody paid and they expect something for what they paid. Jesus

is the one who paid. And Jesus knew what he was buying with the price he paid when he died on the cross. Jesus paid to save us. We would be stuck without his help. Jesus paid to ransom us back from the enemy camp where we had wandered. Jesus paid to release us from slavery to sin. He paid to redeem us from evil and from injustice and the false promises of selfish desires. All of that was happening that day when Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross. A price was being paid. With every drop of blood, Jesus was buying something. He became our Redeemer—the one who paid to set us free.

But have you received the gift Jesus bought for you? Have you ever paid for an app on your phone you didn't use? You're not alone. In the U.K. a study said they are wasting \$132 million a year on unused apps. Businesses in the U.S. are losing \$10 billion a year on unused software. But how much are we losing on unused apps? A lot. Jesus has purchased redemption for you. Will you have it? Maybe we don't need it. Maybe we don't need what Jesus has to offer us today.

What is your assessment of the world? How are things going out there? How do you think the world is doing as we sit here this morning and revel in Easter joy? It's pretty rough out there, wouldn't you say? The world is in utter decay. It seems to be in self-destruct mode. Where is health? We are still fighting off a global plague. COVID accounts for 6.15 million deaths worldwide. Where is emotional health? Anxiety and suicide are skyrocketing among boys and girls. People are lost in their search for identity. Economic health. What will it cost to just keep moving in inflation and possible recession? Where is global health? Lines on a map turn out to just be lines. Tyrants rise up when they are



not kept down. Nation rises against nation and the horrors of war erupt on the world stage; stuff most of us may have thought we would never see again. We've slipped the moorings. The world is in self-destruct mode. But maybe we don't need what Jesus has to offer us today. Or maybe we do.

How do you receive what Jesus paid to buy? You believe. Jesus doesn't expect us to fix the world, He only calls us to believe in him. My son Jack used to do a lot of Legos and he made a Star Wars ship one time... that I stepped on. That's my special talent—stepping on toys. It came apart, and I picked it up and quickly tried to push the pieces back together, which made another piece fall off, and another. Finally, he just looked at me and opened his hands. Give it. Sorry kid. The more I touched it the worse it got. When we are separated from God, everything we touch just gets worse. Sin effects every part of us, mind, heart and will. We are entirely mixed up, and the more you touch it the worse it gets. But here's the thing about what Jesus purchased on the cross: what Jesus did there was not encourage you to try harder or provide a model or pattern for you to follow; what Jesus did on the cross is insert himself into the confusion and sickness, and provide a cure. Into the world of sickness and war-wearied souls, a word comes, a message comes, "But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:8-9) "Saved" means a lot more than going to Heaven after you die. "Saved" means being made whole. "Saved" means restored. "Saved" means health starts right now in your heart, like a bulb, like

a seed, that, when warmed, breaks out and starts to grow.

This is the, as we say, "come to Jesus" text. A lot of you who sit here believing and walking with Jesus, you came to Christ over this text. Romans sums up the gospel message for us, that God created us and loves us (Chapter 1) but we all fell into sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) And that's a problem. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) If it were not for Jesus, the Son of God, come to take our sin on Himself and pay the wage and die on the cross, we would be lost. But He did. He did. He paid. He knew what He was buying when He paid the price He paid. He was buying you. Your heart. Your soul. Your eternal life. Your redemption. Now how do you receive it? "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10) Only believe in your heart. Declare it with your mouth. I belong to Jesus. Jesus is my Lord. Jesus is my Redeemer. No, you don't have to do anything. Only believe.

"As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.'" (Romans 10:11) People are unsure about opening up to Jesus. Do you know, in 23 years of ministry, I have never, not once, met a person who said they regret opening their heart to Jesus. "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him." (Romans 10:12) Jew or Gentile. That just, well, in their day that's a way of saying everyone. You're one or the other. Everyone. The same Lord is here for



all. The same Lord is here for you this morning. “For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:13)

What am I supposed to do to fix this world? It’s a mess. What am I supposed to do to fix my life? It’s a mess. What am I supposed to do to cleanse and renew and start to fix the very heart inside of me? It’s a mess. Only believe. “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9) That’s God’s promise, not mine. That’s God’s offer, not mine. Declare with your mouth. It is different when you say something out loud, isn’t it? They say to write down your goals, but then to tell somebody about them because when you articulate it, it makes it real. My Lord used to be this or that. My Lord used to be money. My Lord used to be alcohol. My Lord used to be sex. My Lord used to be myself, I was my own Lord. But now, hear me say out loud, my Lord is Jesus Christ. Declare with your mouth. Believe in your heart. Put your trust in Jesus from the heart. You do choose what you believe in. You do get to make that choice. As clearly as when you step out on a bridge or sit down in a chair, or for you climbers, when you edge out over a rock wall face and all your hope, all your trust, is in that rope attached to your harness. That’s faith. That’s trust. That’s belief. You do choose. You can choose to put your faith in Jesus Christ. You can choose. If you do, something will happen inside you. You will know it. You will feel it. The empty shell will be filled. The seed will crack open and the shoot will grow and blossom. The healing will begin inside. You will be saved. So it

begins for all the world.

On March 14, the Odessa Opera Singers and Orchestra gathered in the public square outside of their concert hall which was barricaded off. In the wind, exposed to the elements, they began to play and to sing and to pour out beauty in song that resonated off the walls of the buildings in the square in Odessa, Ukraine. Not far, and on their own soil, bombs were falling. On March 25, one young man grabbed his cello and walked out into the square in his city of Kharkiv. He was the only man in the square. The walls of those buildings were all burned, broken and windowless. He sat among the rubble of his city—and he played. Beauty in ashes. They hope, as we hope, that beauty will win over evil, that life will win over death. We hope. In the common heart of humanity, we hope. But do you know, in Jesus we have more than hope? We have a God who came to us. We have a Savior who died for us. We have a Redeemer who paid for us. We have an empty tomb to testify to us, and all, all who call out to the name of the Lord will be saved. And when the healing begins in you, the healing begins for all the world.

So I invite you to pray with me. Open your mouth. Open your heart. What is keeping you from putting your faith in Jesus Christ? Pray with me. Every voice, no one prays alone, if you want to know what it is to speak to Jesus, your Redeemer, pray with me now: Lord Jesus my Redeemer, I profess with my mouth, I believe with my heart, You are my Lord, You are my Savior, You have won my life and I want to follow You. Thank you for giving your life. I give you mine. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

