

The Rock House Church

April 16, 2017

Today God IS MY

REDEEMER: SAVIOUR: FRIEND

LIFE: BREATH: HOPE: LOVER

NEW WINE: NEW VISION: NEW STRENGTH

HIS PROVISION: HIS POWER: HIS PURPOSE:

Focus is KEY: What is your focus today?

Just Living or RESURRECTION Living? FOCUS KEY

Just Thinking About Today: *WE are In The Presence of God! He is Right here!!*

Think PRESENT—Think now—His Love is here for you to Embrace and to receive.

“Think PRESENT.” “He Lives in my heart!!” “His Resurrection LIFE is mine!!”

TODAY'S SONG: He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today, I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer And just the time I need Him He's always near
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart

In all the world around me I see His loving care and though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast The day of His appearing will come at last
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find None other is so loving, so good and kind
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart

TODAY: *Our enemy has sent a storm into our life to shake us up! But something is stirring---the Angel rolls back the stone---new life in us is awakened!! New Trust---Resurrection Life—Activated in us with POWER! New Empowerment Power to Silence the storm---Peace and Confidence in Him. Speak to your storm. (Mark 4: 37-41)*

TODAY'S ENCOURAGING WORD: FATHER GOD Speaking: "There are so many things you would like to be---do different: in yourself, in others, in the world. Your natural tendency is to brood over these matters rather than to talk them over with Me. The longer you focus on these negatives, the more likely you will become dissatisfied. Even when you control what you say out loud, your thoughts tend to be full of complaints. Let Me help you to think in a new way--to think My thoughts.

Do you **believe** that I can help? Can **you trust Me**? Will you trust Me by opening up to Me consistently and---let's talk about your concerns, the things that **really matter to you**---matter to Me also. Begin today with "Thanksgiving," your gratitude is the platform to build on so you can see "The Light of My Face," shining on you and in your situations. A "Thankful heart" lets you see through the "MAZE" or web of your thinking and see this issue from My prospective. From this communion, friendship with Me you will find that My Presence an irresistible, irrepressible Joy that will put a new song in your heart and a new spring into your step." (2 Corinthians 9:15; Num. 6:15; Acts 2:28; Ps. 40:3)

TODAY'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Faith is made up of trust and belief; Abraham Believed God; counted to him as righteousness.

Focus Is Key: What are you focusing on? Focus on RESURRECTION LIFE

"A Christian is a person in whom Christ is happening!"

TODAYS HUMOR Christians believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Materialists believe in the virgin birth of the cosmos. Choose your miracle."- Glen Scrivener

TODAY'S TOP QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is the "Substance" of your Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)
- 2) Do you read Word? (Substance) THE Word(Psalm 119:11)
- 3) Do you have Anchors (substance) to hang onto?(Phil.1:6;Heb.13:5)
- 4) DO you know "IDENTITY?" (substance) see yourself? (Eph. 1)
- 5) How about "Prayer LIFE?" (Substance)(1Thess.5:17;Matt.5:44;6:9)
- 6) What did Abraham bass his "Faith" on? (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4-5:5)
- 7) "I've come to discover faith isn't fragile when it's placed in the right person—Faith in Jesus is rugged, strong and sustaining when we make the right brave choice to TRUST HIM!" Faith is made up of my trust and my belief

QUESTION: Explain to me Matthew 16:23 "Get behind Me Satan!"

JOHN 19: 11, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

LUKE 9:23; 19:23 And He said to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it." (Matt. 10:38; 16:24, Mark 6:34)

Mark 10:21 Give all to the poor follow Me.

Matthew 22:37-40 He said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the greatest commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Glynnis Whitwer April 14 writes: John 20:29 (NIV) "Then Jesus told him, *'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'*"

"Why would he tell me he would never break my heart, and then he did? He lied!"

"People change," I offered helplessly. "He probably meant it when he said it, but something happened." Then she declared "I will never trust again!" Betrayed. I've been there too, and it marks you for life. I've had someone abandon a promise when it became inconvenient ... choose a selfish path that left me standing alone, paying the price. The scars of betrayal creep around your heart, a little more each time, making it very hard to trust again.

So often, trust is like spun sugar, beautiful and fragile. We offer it like a delicate gift, only to snatch it back when it's not honored, and hold it more tightly the next time. Why give such a valuable gift to someone who won't care for it?

I wonder, Is that how the disciples felt the day Jesus was crucified? They'd put all their hope trust and faith in Him, only to have Jesus submit to arrest, an unfair trial and death like a common criminal. Did the disciples doubt everything Jesus had said in their three years together as they hid behind closed doors? They must have been filled with questions that all started with "Why." Why did He leave us? Why did He make that choice?

Maybe you've felt that way too, as you're left standing alone in a dark place. The other side of betrayal is bleak, lonely and hopeless. You can feel like things will never be good again. Certainly the disciples felt some of those emotions.

*However, what the disciples didn't know on that devastating Friday was Jesus hadn't betrayed them. In fact, the opposite was occurring as they sat in despair. **Jesus was honoring the hardest promise ever: Follow His FATHER'S path to the CROSS.** Jesus wasn't selfishly leaving them alone, He was selflessly leading them to the Father for all eternity. In the moments that looked **most hopeless**, Jesus was **working out our greatest hope**. In the moments that looked darkest, **Jesus was forging a path to the LIGHT***

And Jesus still does that for us today.

A friend once told me, "Don't doubt in the dark what you know to be true in the light."

Faith truly is a choice. We can choose to doubt, or we can choose to believe. I've come to discover faith isn't fragile when it's placed in the right person. Faith in Jesus is rugged, strong and sustaining when we make the brave choice to trust Him.

Easter Sunday is proof. The Bible records that on Sunday, three days after Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus fulfilled His promise as He rose from the dead! Imagine the shock, joy and hope that exploded when Mary saw Him first in the garden. Imagine how the disciples felt when they saw Jesus in person that evening. It was all true! He was faithful!

But there was one disciple missing that Sunday evening: Thomas. Thomas didn't get to see the resurrected Lord, and He doubted the reports of Jesus alive. So one week later, Jesus came to the disciples again, this time to show Himself in the flesh to Thomas. Thomas finally believed, after putting his fingers on Jesus' wounds. And I'm pretty sure Jesus was thinking of us when He said these words to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

*Today might be your dark Friday. Hope may be lost. Doubt and fear might be all you have left to give. But might I encourage you to try and **trust Jesus** one more time?*

*Jesus wants to **breathe a fresh wind of hope** into your heart. It may look dark now, but **He is forging a path to escort you into the light**. And though you can't see Him with your eyes, He invites you to trust Him with your heart. Today is Friday, but Sunday's coming. Jesus will hold your faith secure and show He is worthy of it now and forever. **Jesus will keep every promise He's ever made. He PROVED FAITHFUL to them, and He proves TODAY HE IS FAITHFUL and can be TRUSTED To you today.** Taste and See*

C. S. Lewis: "You don't have a soul: You are a soul. You have a body."

TODAY'S WORD: [John 19:16-40](#); [20:1-16](#) So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." ²⁰ Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be"; *this was* to fulfill the Scripture: "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS." ²⁵ Therefore the soldiers did these things.

But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon *a branch of* hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Care of the Body of Jesus ³¹ Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

⁴² Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.----But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

QUESTION: What did you learn today?