



the Crib, the Cross, the Cave – BUT WHY?

-a study in the 3 major events of Jesus' life from the Book of Luke-

Leading into Easter Sunday, we have taken a fresh look at the birth, death, and and today, the resurrection of Christ from the book of Luke. This "gospel" account is written by the same author of the book of Acts, and both show him to be a highly educated man, who wrote from a Greek background. He tells us why he wrote this gospel in the first 4 verses (1:1-4) and some feel Luke is the fullest, most orderly story of Jesus' life.

"**The Cave**" is the "**Easter Love Story**" being preached all over the world today in Christian churches. This story began with a baby born to a virgin and after 33 years on this earth was executed though totally innocent, and the story culminates today with a body dead for 3 days coming back to life! These 3 events are not recorded in Scripture totally for a doctrinal or intellectual discussion, but each of them has personal meaning to us in our daily lives! If you choose to follow Jesus, you will have access to the same power, the same Spirit, and the same possibilities that prompted these three events. The "**Easter Love Story**" is proof that you can be born anew, make it through the dark days of your life, and you victoriously overcame anything – because of Jesus. Let's consider the "WHY" of the resurrection...

Luke 23:50 – 24:53 – the account of what happened -

BUT WHY?

1. JESUS WAS RAISED TO DECLARE _____ OVER _____ !

- Genesis 3:15 – "God told the serpent, 'I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. **He'll crush your head and you will strike his heel.**'"
- 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 – "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? Thanks be to God! He gives us **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

2. JESUS WAS RAISED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW TO _____ EVERYTHING!

- Consider what Jesus overcame in his lifetime:
 - He overcame _____ Luke 4:14-30
 - He overcame _____ Luke 22:39-44
 - He overcame _____ Luke 23:44-46
- Why? So we can experience the same when we have our "cave" moments.
 Romans 8:35-39 – "With God on our side, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and **exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son**, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?...The One who died for us – **who was raised to life for us!** – is in the presence of God at this very moment **sticking up for us**. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture!"

3. JESUS WAS RAISED SO THE _____ CAN BE _____ ALSO!

- Romans 6:3-14 – "If we left sin...this is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace – a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; **when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.**"
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – "the dead in Christ **will rise first**; then **we who are alive will be caught up together with them** to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever."

"Therefore, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58