

ALIVE**I. Slide1a Intro:**

A. Good morning: *Happy Resurrection Day!*

1. Kel & I 1st conversation this morning, *where did the **big stone** come from in the middle of our lawn?* (who rolled this stone?) Came down off our hill.

B. What's nice about **Resurrection Day** is that, *I don't have to make the resurrection **Relevant**...it **Already Is Relevant**.*

1. I just need to **proclaim it**, **and apply it** with **joy & confidence**.

2. Of course, it *isn't* just *an idea, a concept, or a doctrine*. It is the **power** of **Jesus** to usher *broken, fragile humanity* into His **newness of life**.

C. **Strange Times:**

1. **Guy/guide:** ***1st time** in the State of Israel. **1st time** in over 3000+ yrs since the 1st Passover, a curfew to stay in their home. Ex.12:22 (slaughter the Passover Lamb, put blood on doorposts) **None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.***

2. **Mike Ramsey:** Text me this morning. ***Sad** the church won't be able to be together for the 1st time in 2000 years, **but Exciting** it will be like the 1st disciples, gathered in their homes (fearing death, not from a pandemic, **but** from Roman authorities). **But, as Jesus was among them so will he be with us this morning.***

D. **Prayer:** Lord, we celebrate this morning that *resurrection* is not just an **idea** or **concept**, **but** it *has a living face and a name*. This morning, we proclaim that **living face** & declare that *death-conquering name*...Jesus!

E. **Slide1b** Jesus' **Resurrection** was about *defeating Death*.

1. This is **relevant** today how? *When else do you remember everyday waking up & listening to, or reading about, the whole world's **death toll** because of this Corona Virus?*

2. But **death-died** when **Christ rose**. It doesn't mean we won't die, **but** it does mean death is **not the end** for the believer. **Oh death where is your sting?**

F. **Slide2 2 Egg Analogy:** [hold egg] Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall, all the king's horses & all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again.

1. This nursery rhyme began actually as **a riddle**, asking the question, *What, once broken, can never be repaired, not even by strong or wise persons?*

a) See Humpty didn't have a **wall problem**, **but a fall problem**. [break egg]

b) Regardless of how hard we try, **a broken egg** can never be put back together again. **A scrambled egg** can never be unscrambled.

2. **See, it's more than a nursery rhyme:** The **fall of humanity** into **sin** in **Gen.3** is bad news, **very bad news**.

a) Some call it the **uncreation**, because it **reversed** God's original intentions for humanity and the earth.

b) **God formed** all things by creation, **but humanity deformed** all things by **sin**.

c) [we'll talk about the 2nd Egg later...]

II. Slide3 THE END OF THE BEGINNING

A. I love how C.S. Lewis, sums up things at the end of his *Narnia series* in *The Last Battle*. "...for us this is the **end** of all stories (death), and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. **But for them it was only the beginning of the real story**. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on **forever**: in which every chapter is **better** than the one before."

- B. This morning I wanna talk about *a post-resurrection appearance* of **Jesus**. **One** I don't think we normally talk about. *Actually, because it's 60 years later!*
- In **Rev.1** it had been **60 yrs** since John had **heard Jesus voice**...now he hears it.
- C. **John was on the isle of Patmos** & John was **in the Spirit**, *on Sunday, the Lord's Day*.
- John found himself in a **human** environment & a **heavenly** one.
Every Christian lives in 2 locations:
 - A Christian was once asked if he was *going to heaven*, to which he replied, *I live there!* - **Was he right?**
 - Well**, A workman had a **little store**...he also had **an apartment upstairs over his shop**. Someone asked him about his situation...*I work down here, but I live up there! That's it!*
- D. **Slide4** Rev.1:17,18 *NLT When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look - I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.*
- E. 60 years ago, John in *the upper room* had leaned on Jesus chest, **but now** when he **saw** the glorified Christ he *fell at his feet as a dead man*. (1:17)
- I don't think he fell down as a **worship man** but a **dead man** [all circuits go dark]
 - John** approaches *the resurrected Jesus* with **awe & fear & reverence**.
So we must approach Him as **Wondrous** & as **Worshippers**.
- F. **Slide5a** Note these are Jesus' words of **Holy Comfort** to John: He laid His right hand on me and said, do not be afraid. what a reassuring touch :) **Comfort** from fear. You & I need this Today!
- 1st because**, He's *the first and the last*. The Eternal one. The beg/end. **The A-Z**. The *author & finisher* of our faith. **The Christ** of history & eternity.
 - Slide5b 2nd because**, He is *the Living One*. The Resurrected One. [once dead twice alive]

3. **Slide5c 3rd** because, He *has the keys*/authority *over death & the place of the dead*. [He has the power to **send** people to death & Hades, **OR**, *to deliver them from them*]. He alone has the authority over death and the place of the dead. (I have keys to the invisible universe) [**death**, even *Corona deaths*, seems so strong, so terminal, so final...but it's **not!** There is a **limit** to its power]

a) **The right hand**: *not of restraint nor of correction nor of chastisement*, but the *right hand* of the **loving touch** of our Savior. Have you felt His hand?

G. **2nd Egg analogy**: (hold egg) Jesus, humbled himself, and took upon himself the body of man. **But** Jesus never had a **fall**. Was never **broken** on the inside. He was **perfect**...and claimed to **BE God** and they hated Him for it...

1. They hated Him so bad **they took His body to**: Whip it. Scourge it. Nail it. Hang it. Stab it.

2. The **Pharisees** try to **flatten** Him. The **Sadducees** tried to **smash** Him. **Caiaphas** tried to **crack** Him. **And** The **crowd** tried to **CRUSH**/*egg* Him. But what do you do w/a body that's **no longer there?**

a) *Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up.*

b) *He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead.*

c) **See**, He's no longer the **willing-sufferer-on-Calvary**, but the **King Triumphant**. No longer wearing a **crown of thorns**, but a **Kings Crown**. He's not a **memory of the past**, but the **truth branded** in the minds and hearts of His people **today**. He's longer a **baby**, but a **warrior**. **And...**
He is no longer **dead**, but **HE IS RISEN!** [risen Indeed!]

H. **Believers**: let's be **expectant** of what *the risen Jesus* wants to do in **each** of our **lives**. *Because He lives, we shall live also.*

I. **Friends**: Have you **felt the touch** of Jesus' right hand upon you saying, *do not be afraid?* Let **Him** strip away your *fears, sins, guilt & stains*.

1. Jesus said, *I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message & believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will **never** be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*
 2. Give Invitation to start a relationship with Jesus.
- J. **Prayer:** Lord, we celebrate this morning that *resurrection* is not just an **idea** or **concept**, but it *has a living face and a name*. This morning, we proclaim that **living face** and declare that *death-conquering name...Jesus!*