

## **Sermon Guide: Towards Easter: the Good News of Jesus: “The Good News Of The Resurrection” | Samuel Voo | March 31, 2024**

### **Summary**

Today, on Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate the climactic event of the gospel – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event is the culmination of all biblical narratives and the heart of the gospel message. It is the day when the core of the gospel – the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus – converge to affirm that He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and our Lord. As we receive this truth and believe that he is Messiah, the Gospel promises that we will have life in his name (John 20:30-31).

Eternal life, as John presents it, is a quality of life that begins now and continues into eternity. In contrast to ancient Greek ideas, the Jewish concept of eternal life had more to do with God coming into history than it did with our souls leaving this world. Eternal life, in the Gospel of John, is presented as the gift we receive as those who believe in Jesus.

As we reflect on John 13-17 (what scholars have called the “Farewell Discourse”), we see Jesus imparting three primary gifts to His disciples: peace, joy, and love. These are not ordinary gifts but divine qualities that Jesus Himself possesses. He offers His peace, not as the world gives, troubled and temporary, but a peace that transcends our circumstances. His joy even in the midst of suffering, is not dependent on external situations but is rooted in obedience and relationship with the Father. And His love is not fickle or self-centered but constant and sacrificial, and grows even stronger when circumstances are difficult.

To receive these gifts, we must believe—not just intellectually assent to historical facts, but to commit our lives to Jesus as our Lord. This belief involves loyalty, commitment, and obedience, –qualities which themselves are gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is through this kind of transformative belief that we can experience the fullness of His peace, joy, and love.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. The resurrection of Jesus is the climax of the biblical narrative, confirming Him as the Messiah and Lord over all creation. This truth is not just for contemplation but calls for a response of worship and submission to His lordship in every aspect of our lives. [\[49:33\]](#)

2. Eternal life is not merely an extension of our current existence but a transformation into the quality of life that characterizes the age to come. It is a present reality for those who believe in Jesus, affecting how we live today and our hope for the future. [08:17]

3. The peace that Jesus offers is a divine peace that stands firm in the face of life's trials and tribulations. It is a peace that comes from knowing our identity in Christ and trusting in His sovereign control over our circumstances. [18:50]

4. Joy in the Christian life is not the absence of suffering but the presence of Jesus in the midst of it. Our joy is made complete as we align ourselves with God's will and find purpose in participating in His redemptive work in the world. [19:47]

5. The love that Jesus imparts to His followers is a result of his intimate relationship of love with his Father. As we abide in Jesus' love for us, we are empowered to love others with the same selfless, enduring love that Jesus demonstrated. [27:41]

### **Bible Reading:**

John 20:30-31 (ESV)

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John 14:27 (ESV)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

John 15:11 (ESV)

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

John 13:1 (ESV)

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In John 20:30-31, what is the purpose of the signs Jesus performed according to the author?
2. How does the peace Jesus offers in John 14:27 differ from the peace the world gives?
3. How does Jesus' demonstration of love to the end, as seen in John 13:1, challenge our understanding of love in our own lives?

### **Going deeper**

1. Reflect on a recent situation where you struggled to find peace. How can you apply the peace of Jesus from John 14:27 to that situation this week?

2. Think of a person in your life who may be difficult to love. How can you show them the kind of enduring love Jesus speaks of in John 13:1?
3. What is one way you can deepen your belief in Jesus as the Christ this week, moving beyond intellectual assent to a more committed, obedient faith?