

Job 19:23-27

Oh how I wish that my words were written down.
Oh how I wish that they were inscribed in bronze,
²⁴ that they would be engraved in rock forever
with an iron tool and letters filled with lead.
²⁵ As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust.
²⁶ Then, even after my skin has been destroyed,
nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God.
²⁷ I myself will see him.
My own eyes will see him, and not as a stranger.
My emotions are in turmoil within me.

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and anoint Jesus. ²Very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³They were saying to each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb for us?”
⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.
⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶He said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”
⁸They went out and hurried away from the tomb, trembling and perplexed. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. (EHV)

Easter Sunday Sermon 2024

Jesus is your Wish... ...your Dream Come True

Today we hear the same message of truth, confidence and hope in all three Bible readings. God through Paul says in 1 Cor 15 that we are in Christ and so made alive. Then the angel says to the women that Jesus is no longer in the tomb – he has risen! By God’s inspiration the Prophet Job is saying, “**I have a dream...**”

Much of life plays with the wishes and dreams of people. Fulfilling those wishes and dreams can only last so long. Eventually wishes and dreams fade and fail. Death makes certain of that. What is interesting from Maundy Thursday when God says in Exodus if anyone does not obey his requirement of a sacrifice – their wishes and dreams would be shattered by death that very night. But Jesus who was sacrificed on Friday is now alive on Sunday to shatter our doubt.

We have biology – the study of life. We have geology – the study of earth. We have psychology – the study of human behavior and mental health. Did you know there is something called **Thanatology** – the study of death? In Greek Thanatos – is a personification of death. Another nickname could be angel of death. Connected to the turn of the 18th century and after Two World Wars people were haunted for many years by death and dying. War brings death closer and quicker.

Job 33:22 “**Then his soul draws near to destruction, and his life to those who bring death.**”

The Memitim could be an angel or the curse of death itself. (מְמִיטִים) – are "executioners", "slayers", "destroyers.") Memitim bring about the destruction of those no longer protected by guardian angels. Angels of God obey God’s every command in a perfect way that we never could. The angel in the tomb is portrayed on the cover of the service folder. The Memitim in art and culture are pictured as a skeleton which is robed and holds a harvest sickle. Death is no longer intimidating to those who know with Job and believe with the women that Jesus our Redeemer lives. Death did not overpower Jesus – Jesus in power gave himself into death in our place, for our sake. **The cross is no longer death, it is now because of Jesus the epitome of God’s love given.** The empty tomb is proof of God’s approval of Jesus’ sacrifice as Jesus is no longer dead but fully alive in the flesh. Every eye will see Jesus at the end of the world – when we stand with Job at that moment.

Jesus died but no one brought death to him he gave himself up into death and his prayer for God to deliver him from death was spoken when he said, “**Father into your hands I commit my spirit.**” There is an angel on the front cover of the service folder, but it is not a fearful one that takes away wishes and dreams. The angel at the tomb of Jesus spoke God’s words that make our wish to be saved and dream to live again with God to come true. That angel spoke words to make wishes and dreams come true because of Jesus.

Woody Allen once said, “I’m not afraid to die, I just don’t want to be there when it happens.” Jesus isn’t joking around when he predicts his death and then goes into it face-forward. He was dead serious and now is alive serious. He was not afraid to die, in fact he was eager to get done what we could never do. The death of Jesus is eternally connected to his resurrection. Remember that Jesus is God who never lost control, he never faltered, he never once tried to “save” himself when the people tried to tempt him to do exactly that.

Jesus was not afraid to live a perfect life for you, die on the cross to pay for your sins, and then rise from the tomb and grave fully – wonderfully – and eternally alive and well. God did eventually answer his prayer to deliver him, after death Jesus was raised back to life to never suffer and die again. While we believers live we stand under God’s promise of Jesus’ Resurrection. Job believed it. Those women when they finally stopped trembling and being perplexed believed it. You with the entire communion of saints can count on God’s

everlasting promise that Jesus paid the full debt. You can count on God's everlasting promise that these eternal words written in all of the Bible are eternally true and real and effective.

Even after we die, we with Job will be resurrected from the dead and with our own eyes will see Jesus but no longer in fear and no longer as a stranger. This Son of God, this Savior of the World is no stranger to all who believe in his personal care and concern to cause us to believe and strengthen our faith and trust in him.

When God makes a promise He will keep it. We wish and want and desire – but all of that depends on factors outside of our control. **Jesus is your wish come true... Jesus is your dream come true.**

The prophet Job and the angel say that our dream of eternal life comes true in the resurrection of God from the grave. We get to know by faith what Job knew in that his Redeemer lives whom he will see with his very own resurrected flesh and eyes. That kind of a wish, that kind of a dream is only made possible by the only one who can save us from death through his own life, and his name is Christ Jesus who has risen!

Job twice speaks his wish, the women wished to do the right thing – God goes beyond our wishes and desires to give heaven to us freely by the cross. By inspiration from God Job says, “**I have a dream.**” And these words of God transcend space, time, age, race, and location. Because these words of God are eternal, stronger than yours and mine combined. Strong because the Word of God endures forever. Job knew that by faith, the women would eventually calm down and know that by faith. We also benefit from these ever powerful Words of God that cause us to believe, continue us in faith and connect us to the same Resurrection which Job prophesies about. This is Job's wish and dream to see God in the flesh with his own eyes. And he will.

But unlike other human dreams, wishes, desires, and hopes – this kind of a dream is shared by every believer. This wish, this dream is Jesus come true for me and for you. **Jesus is your wish... your dream come true.**

We can wish and want many things at different ages and stages of life. But the spiritual need that we have is to hope in the name of the LORD the one who made the heavens and the earth. The women also had certain wishes and desires that they planned to carry out until God interrupted them in a divine way. They were alarmed by what they saw inside that tomb. I also think they may have been alarmed by what they didn't see in that tomb.

Every angel that appears to sinful souls causes to one degree or another a type of alarm and fear. Because perfect and holy spirits appearing to sinful souls cause an honest evaluation of our sinful status with a Holy God. **Angels see God unfiltered – we believers see God in the flesh in Jesus' death and Resurrection.**

I will see him, Job says. You will see him the angel says. We can trust these words of promise in the heart of God's command because the hope given by God in Christ applies to eternity. Jesus is your wish... your dream come true.

Jesus is the one who does it all.

Absolutely you are loved.

Absolutely you are forgiven.

Absolutely you are saved ~ and this is the greatest wish the greatest dream eternally come true.

We have wishes, dreams, and needs. God gives more than that by grace through faith. What they wish for comes true. Job wished. The women wished. Peter wished and so do we. We wish to survive death and God brings that wish to become a reality because of Jesus. Our dream of a much better is the best of all waiting for us in heaven where more than dreams more than wishes will come true.

The prophet Job starts out by saying these are my words that I wish for others to believe in my Redeemer with me. Then he goes on to say 'this is me' by professing, confessing and declaring his faith and trust. By faith we join with Job to also say, "this is me!" Believers take confidence and comfort against death/past death by the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Despite and in spite of the turmoil, trembling, and emotions of all believers in the Bible Old Testament and New. Our faith is firmly fixed on Jesus who died and rose from the dead. Our Redeemer lives. Our Savior is alive. Our Jesus was once dead but now is alive forevermore. **Jesus is your wish your dream come true.** The hope that Job has is the same hope those women will have is the same hope we believers have in Christ. We will live forever in heaven because of him. That kind of trust, that kind of faith, that kind of hope comes from trusting the angel that says "**don't be alarmed, go and tell, you will see him, just as he told you.**"

Believe what the angel says, the crucified has risen! Jesus died so that we will live. Jesus rose so when we close our eyes in death we will open our eyes into eternal life with him in heaven. **Jesus is your wish come true.**
Jesus is your dream come true.

Job had a dream ... a dream that came true the moment he died.

The women had a dream come true the moment they died.

We have a dream come true the moment we die, because Jesus lives we too will live forever with him.!

Jesus is your dream come true. By faith through Grace we look forward to our eternal life with him in heaven. Now we unlike the women go and tell as Jesus tells us to say, "**Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**" (1 Cor 15:20) Amen.