

Resurrection Stories: Victory Over Death

II Kings 13:14-21 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 2 May 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Who had the most positive Christian impact in your life and how?

Worship: [1 Corinthians 15:57-58](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

Sermon Summary for [II Kings 13:14-21](#) (Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

When Jesus says, “*You are witnesses of these things,*” (Luke 24:48), we are being invited to take up that calling – to become witnesses of resurrection. Key to this is Christ telling us on Easter that every part of the Old Testament is about Him, specifically His death and resurrection. In this story found in Second Kings, Elisha himself faces death, thereby teaching us how to deal with death as people of Christ’s resurrection. Which is easier said than done! Death has the power to make everything feel temporary, empty, even hopeless. How can we have hope and life and victory in the face of it? We’re forced to consider what meaning our life has that death cannot take away. Who or what can offer satisfying answers to such questions? Certainly Jesus can, but so can His people – especially those nearing death themselves. For through them we can learn to be Christ’s witnesses as we deal with death by faith.

We can live without the denial of death // It’s noteworthy that Elisha is never in denial about his own death, nor its nearness. Even though Elijah (who came before him) was taken by chariot up into Heaven and Elisha was given a double portion of Elijah’s spirit, he knows he is going to die. Whether because of health or youth or busyness or joy, we might forget about death or feel it’s some far off thing. But death is real and close – for all of us. And we should live accordingly ([Psalm 90:10](#)). The resurrection enables us to face death, to embrace its reality and nearness, to stop denying or fearing it. And yet many (perhaps most) Christians still fear it terribly. What we need is the perfect love found in Easter to drive away our fears. Everything Jesus did while here among us was for us. This includes succumbing to death, being put in the grave, and then rising again. Resurrection is a path He forges for us.

We can speak powerfully in the shadows of death // People who are near death (and know it) speak with a beautiful, penetrating honesty. They realize time is short and that important communication needs to take place. Often, they are able to bless others with their gracious words and challenge us with their penetrating insights. Speaking with them will usually leave us weeping with sadness, but also filled with hope in God’s victory over sin and death. And we don’t have to wait until we are on our deathbed to share this hope and enter into the victories of God more fully. Because the same Spirit who raised up Jesus is alive and at work in us. Like Elisha, we can and should speak into the face of death, throughout our lives. Because Easter shows and proves that our labors are never in vain. We can be encouraged to remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because Christ is risen from the dead.

We can leave behind a life-giving legacy after death // A legacy is a cherished treasure, passed onto future generations. After we have run our races with Jesus in this life, there will be nothing special about our gravesites; they will only be markers whereby our loved ones can remember and honor us. Similarly, past Christians help us to see that we are part of an enduring legacy, which in turn encourages us to endure, to grow, and to seize this moment for Christ. May that be our legacy: that we – as risen people, touched by and made alive by Jesus – move out and speak with power and hope wherever the Lord might call us.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

We Can Live Without the Denial of Death

- How is Elisha a role model for us in facing death – our own or that of another?
 - What frees us to face death without denial and fear?
- Read and comment on Q&A #37 of the [Westminster Shorter Catechism](#): **Q. 37.** *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.* (For further study see Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8; Phil. 1:23.)
 - What are your thoughts about death at this time?

We Can Speak Powerfully in the Shadows of Death

- Why do you think Elisha, though sick and dying, had a great desire to speak powerfully of God to Joash?
 - What do you learn from Elisha that you would like to emulate?
- Compare Elisha's actions in this passage with [1 Corinthians 15:57-58](#).
 - Whom does God want you to share the truth of His victory through the resurrection of Jesus?
 - Whom does He want you to share His love and compassion with because of the trials they are in?

We Can Leave Behind a Life-Giving Legacy After Death

- What legacy stories have impacted your faith journey and how?
 - What little deaths and resurrections have influenced your life and legacy?
- What new thing could you do to live as a risen person intent on leaving a legacy of gospel hope and power for future generations?

Prayer For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon ([site](#) | [book](#)).

For those of you who missed the Generous Hospitality Seminar, here is Dave Runyon's portion. Click [Here](#) to listen.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” “ (Luke 10:27). Imagine if every Christian interpreted what Jesus said as the most important thing to do and actually did it. Imagine if every person made decisions about their schedules to make good neighboring a priority. There is so much potential. The world really could be changed.

The Art of Neighboring, page 180

- What would our city be like if every Christian made a decision to become a better neighbor?
- Continue encouraging each other to take the Great Commandment seriously by reaching out to your neighbors.
- Please share some of your neighboring stories with us! Email them to community@pacificcrossroads.org.