THE DAVID SPOON EXPERIENCE

INCREASE

A weekly letter from He Must Increase Ministry · HMIM Radio

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A NOTE FROM DR. DAVE

Shalom, friends,

Today on the show we stood at the empty tomb in Matthew 28, and then we walked on through 1 Peter 4, where Peter showed us what happens when a life meets the risen Jesus: it changes, people notice, and we learn to watch, pray, and love one another deeply.

So let's open the Word together.

THIS WEEK'S TEACHING

The empty tomb, the changed life, and the end of all things

1. Go quickly and tell

MATTHEW 28:1–7 · EPHESIANS 6:15

The angel at the empty tomb said, “go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead’” (Matthew 28:7, BSB). “Wherever you go, you take the gospel of peace.” Our “feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15, BSB). So “stop wondering and worrying what God thinks about you. You know what He thinks about you? Enough to send His Son to die for you.”

“You cannot have Christianity without the resurrection.” “The resurrection makes every declaration of Jesus Christ truth.” “It’s empty. He ain’t there. He rose.”

2. He is going ahead of you

MATTHEW 28:7 · 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

The resurrection tells us that death is not the end. Your situation “might be good. It might be bad. It might be awful. It’s irrelevant. It’s not even on the scale of what’s coming.” “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9, BSB). And “the same power that brought Jesus back from the dead is the same power that’s going to bring you back from the dead.”

Then there's that little phrase: He "is going ahead of you into Galilee" (Matthew 28:7, BSB). "The trail that you're going to encounter, He's already on." My dog Bert growls at a noise he doesn't know, and then we look up and it's the ice cream man. "We don't know what's coming and we react to it because we're kind of goofy. God knows what's coming."

3. Born again means changed

1 PETER 4:3–5 · JOHN 3:6

Peter says the people we used to run with "consider it strange of you not to plunge with them into the same flood of reckless indiscretion, and they heap abuse on you" (1 Peter 4:4, BSB). Why? "You became born again… You are no longer who you were." Jesus told Nicodemus, "Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit" (John 3:6, BSB). "You cannot become a born again Christian and have no change. Can't happen." "Because when Jesus touches a life, it changes."

When the Lord set me free from drugs, I told my old drug buddies about the gospel, and they "tried to either get me to get high, told me to get lost and never return, told me I've lost my mind." "I am not perfect. I have too many witnesses against me, but my life changed." And if you've been insulted because you're a Christian, "it is a glory. It is an honor… it is a privilege."

Suggested: "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (1 Peter 4:14, BSB).

4. Watch, pray, and love deeply

1 PETER 4:6–8 · HEBREWS 9:27 · 1 JOHN 3:14

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and sober, so that you can pray" (1 Peter 4:7, BSB). "There is no second chance. There's no purgatory." "Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27, BSB). "Jesus said, watch and pray… Prayer changes things."

"Above all, love one another deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8, BSB). That doesn't replace the redeeming work of Christ, but "when you love your brothers and sisters deeply, God sees that." And Scripture gives us this assurance: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers" (1 John 3:14, BSB).

FROM THE SHOW

> *"You need to know Who's around the corner."*
>
> **— Dr. Dave**

> *"If your friends are like, what, you're not going to do this? That's a badge of honor. Wear it."*

— Dr. Dave

> *“When you just pray for yourself, you’re selfish. When you pray for others too, you’re Christ-like.”*
>
> — Dr. Dave

FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

- Who in your life needs to hear from you this week that Jesus is risen?
- What around the corner can you trust to the One Who has gone ahead of you?

UNTIL NEXT TIME

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“He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30, BSB).

Blessings,

Dr. Dave

Dr. David Spoon, President, He Must Increase Ministry
Host, The David Spoon Experience

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