



He Is Risen: Easter at Redemption

Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. | Redemption Church

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this special Easter message, Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr reflects on the power of the Resurrection and what it means to our everyday lives. The resurrection of Jesus does not just forgive our sins—it restores our purpose. Using the stories of Judas, Peter, and Malchus (the servant whose ear Peter cut off in the garden), Pastor Ron shows us that Jesus was demonstrating grace on his way to the cross, not just after it. Great teachers don't just teach—they show. And this Jesus, in the middle of his own suffering, was passing out love, forgiveness, and restoration to the very people who betrayed, denied, and opposed him.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Romans 1:3-4; Mark 16:6-7

DISCUSSION POINTS & QUESTIONS

1. JESUS LOVES ACCORDING TO FOREKNOWLEDGE

We love based on everything a relationship has revealed up until now. Jesus loves based on foreknowledge—he embraces you knowing you will screw up, knowing every proclivity in your flesh, every habit, every addiction. He chose Judas knowing Judas would betray him. He chose Peter knowing Peter would deny him three times. And yet he let them stay. He kept throwing the widest net he could to reach them.

Questions:

- Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. said, “When we say ‘I love you,’ what we really mean is: I love you based on everything this relationship has revealed about you up until right now.” Do you agree? How does that differ from how Jesus loves?
- Jesus knew Judas would betray him and still kept him in the circle for three and a half years. What does that tell you about how Jesus views the people in your life who have hurt or disappointed you?

2. PETER - FAILURE DOESN'T CHANGE OUR STATUS

After the resurrection, the angel's message was specific: "Go tell the disciples—and Peter." Peter had denied even knowing Jesus three times in the same night. He had gone back to fishing, essentially walking away from his calling. But Jesus, freshly risen from the dead, called him by name. Failure did not change Peter's status. He found him on the shore, cooked him breakfast, and asked him one question: "Do you love me?" When Peter said yes, Jesus said: Feed my sheep.

Questions:

- Why do you think Jesus called Peter by name in that resurrection message rather than just saying "go tell the disciples"? What does that specificity mean to you personally?
- Peter ran away from Jesus when he failed, rather than running toward him. Why do we tend to do the same thing when we mess up? What would it look like to run toward Jesus instead?

3. MALCHUS - RESURRECTION RESTORES OUR PURPOSE

Malchus was not a soldier. He was an apprentice to the high priest Caiaphas—training his entire life to one day serve as priest over Israel. Under Leviticus 21 (vs. 17-19), any physical defect disqualified a person from the priesthood. In one moment, everything Malchus had given his life to was gone. His destiny. His calling. His future. And Jesus—on his way to the cross, under arrest, about to be crucified—stopped, picked up the ear, and put it back.

Questions:

- What has been "taken" from you—purpose, opportunity, health, a relationship, a dream—that you need Jesus to restore?
- Malchus was in the garden as an enemy of Jesus, coming to help arrest him. Yet Jesus restored him anyway. What does it say about grace that Jesus showed it to someone actively working against him?

4. JUDAS – THE RESTORATION POWER OF THE CROSS

Although he knew Judas would betray him, Jesus still allowed him to be part of his ministry. This poses a question to us: "Do we only extend grace to those we like/agree with, or to everyone?" Jesus carried his cross, and so must we. We cannot eliminate hardship nor difficult people from our lives. The cross is the only way to receive restoration from our sins.

Questions:

- Jesus modeled grace on the way to the cross, not just after the resurrection. How does that change the way you think about being a witness in the middle of your own hard seasons?
- Think about the three people in this message—Judas (betrayer), Peter (denier), Malchus (enemy). Which one do you most identify with right now, and why?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Jesus was not simply teaching grace and forgiveness—He was displaying it while he was going through his own suffering. In the garden, on the way to the cross, after the resurrection, he was demonstrating the very thing he was about to purchase. He showed Judas what it looks like to love someone you know will betray you. He showed Peter what it looks like when failure doesn't change your status. He showed Malchus what it looks like when purpose is restored. The cross doesn't just wash—it puts things back.

GROUP CHALLENGE

Take a few minutes right now to have each person answer this question aloud: "What is one thing I need Jesus to put back?" It could be purpose, confidence, a relationship, a dream, a sense of calling. After each

person shares, have the group pray specifically over that thing. Then commit to checking in with one another throughout the week.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

Identify one area where you have been living as though you are disqualified—a calling you've walked away from, a dream you've buried, a season you've given up on. Write it down. Then spend time in prayer this week asking God: "Is this still on the table?" Expect that it is. The same Jesus who stopped on the way to the cross to put back an ear has not forgotten what belongs to you.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." – Romans 1:4

PRAYER:

Father, thank You that the resurrection is not just a historical event—it is a living reality that changes everything. Thank You that You love us according to foreknowledge, knowing every failure before we commit it and choosing us anyway. Thank You that failure does not change our status with You. Like Peter, You call us by name. Like Malchus, You restore what was lost. Whatever has been disqualified, whatever has been cut off, whatever we thought was over—we bring it before You today and trust that You are the God who puts things back. We receive Your restoration, Your purpose, and Your resurrection power in Jesus' name. Amen!