



R O M A N S 4 : 1 8 - 5 : 2

THE JUDGE WHO WAS JUDGED

STUDY GUIDE

April 5

AN EASTER STUDY

on Romans 4:18-5:2

April 5

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Beijing, China
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Written by TJ Johnson

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Sermon Overview

FNear my home is a running trail my wife and I like to run occasionally. It just so happens that this trail passes through a small cemetery. I always find it odd when I run past it. Across the street from a bustling mall, tucked away behind the trees, is a reminder of death. I've never seen anyone there. It almost feels forgotten by time. But I imagine this Sunday that little cemetery will be rife with activity. It is, after all, 清明节 (Tomb Sweeping Day)—the day people visit the tombs of their ancestors.

It's a bit serendipitous that on the weekend billions of people will be visiting tombs, we too are invited to a tomb. Not to burn paper money. Not to mourn. Nor to honor the dead. For the tomb we are invited to is empty. Two thousand years ago, just outside Jerusalem in a garden, the body of Jesus briefly occupied that tomb for three days. But on Sunday morning, as the sun rose from its slumber, so too the Son rose from the dead.

It was all very shocking, for the women, for the Roman soldiers, and even for the Apostles. The Romans had crucified Jesus. A soldier had thrust a spear into Jesus' side, from which blood and water flowed. They had taken His lifeless body off the cross. A few faithful followers had hastily wrapped His body and placed it in a tomb. A stone was rolled over its entrance. There's no doubt, Jesus was dead. And yet now... here He was living, breathing, talking...very much ALIVE.

But what does it all mean? Aside from the fact that it's a bit odd and mysterious—and quite an amazing thing to accomplish—what does His resurrection actually mean? Why should I care about this event? Why should you care about the resurrection? Why should the billions of people who will be eating Easter brunches and hunting eggs this Sunday care about the resurrection?

It is my hope that as we gather this Lord's Day—through our singing, praying, preaching, and partaking of the Lord's Supper—that question will be answered. Jesus HAS risen. But what does it all mean? In preparation for Sunday, I encourage you to read through Romans 4:18–5:2.

Waiting in anticipation with you,

Elder TJ Johnson



Christ Has Risen

Sermon Outline

Proposition: Jesus' Resurrection is God's final judgment on Jesus, sin, and His elect, so let us rejoice in what Jesus has accomplished in His resurrection.

- 1. The Resurrection means Christ was judged worthy.**
- 2. The Resurrection means sin, death, and the devil was judged defeated.**
- 3. The Resurrection means Sinners have been judged justified.**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Christ Has Risen

Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 1:4; 4:25; and 1 Timothy 3:16. What does it mean that Jesus' resurrection justified (vindicated) Him, and why is this important for our salvation? (See also 1 Corinthians 15:14–17.)
2. Read Romans 4:25 and Colossians 2:13–15. Who are the rulers and authorities in this passage? In what ways has Jesus' death and resurrection disarmed them, and what does that mean practically for Christians? In other words, does this mean the spiritual forces of evil can no longer tempt or afflict us?
3. Read Colossians 2:13–15 and 2 Corinthians 11:14. Satan's strategy is disguise—appearing as an "angel of light." Where do you see this happening in your own life? While Satan and his ways can seem right and enjoyable (an angel of light), in what ways has the resurrection of Jesus "shamed" Satan in your own eyes so that his power over you has diminished?
4. Read Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 6:14, 15:12–23; 2 Corinthians 4:14; and 1 Thessalonians 4:14. Think of a current difficulty in your life. How should the reality of Christ's resurrection—and the guarantee of your future resurrection—change the way you view that situation?
5. Read Romans 6:4–5; 8:10–14; Ephesians 2:4–6; Colossians 3:1–4; and Philippians 3:10–11. Resurrection power is not just for the future but for how we live now. Where in your daily life do you most need to experience the reality that you have been "raised to a new life"? What might be some reasons a Christian is not living in resurrection power?
6. Read Romans 4:20. What unbelief do you currently have in your heart? As Abraham "grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God," in what ways can we regularly give glory to God for Jesus' resurrection? Are there any healthy habits you need to start cultivating?



Christ Has Risen

Discussion Questions

7. What is one practical way you can bear witness to the true meaning of the resurrection in your daily life this week?



Christ Has Risen

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports