

The Prayer Class

Purpose: *To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer*

The Prayer Class meets in God's Throne Room 24/7

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence Ephesians 3:12.

Teacher: Abe Funk

Date: March 28, 2024

Lesson: *I Am the Resurrection --Jesus*

Welcome to The Prayer Class:

Dear Father, Thank you for your marvelous plan of redemption through Jesus' death and resurrection, and not only as a historical fact, or future promise, but also a daily living reality. Thank you! Amen!

Bible Reading:

 John 11:17-27 (NIV)

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Key Verse: *I am the resurrection and the life 11:25*

Background and Lesson:

Abdu Murray tells his story of conversion in his book, *More than a White Man's Religion*. He was born into a Lebanese family in Michigan, United States, and raised a committed Muslim. He started reading the Bible to find flaws with it to show Christians that the Bible couldn't be trusted. He writes, *I became a Christian...after scrutinizing the Bible and other religions for nine years. I came to faith largely because of the evidence of Christianity's chief miracle—Jesus' bodily resurrection...* Today Murray is a lawyer and sought after speaker sharing his faith in the risen Christ and defending the Christian faith all over the world.

Jesus chose to delay his arrival in Bethany despite Mary and Martha's plea to come quickly as their brother Lazarus was gravely ill. Jesus waited for him to die to show that not only did he have the power to heal, but also the power over death. Jews believed that the spirit of a person lingered in the area for three days after death, and that is why Jesus waited for the fourth day to show up. He wanted there to be no doubt that he had the power over death, and to also set the stage for his own miraculous resurrection from death in just a few days.

While Jesus' enemies feared the crowd who followed Jesus at the Passover celebration, the one thing they feared most about Jesus was his predicted resurrection from the dead. That is why they went to

Pilot to ask that his tomb be secured by the king's seal, and to post guards which normally consisted of four Roman soldiers on rotation every four hours around the clock. The reason they gave Pilot was lest his body be stolen; but their real fear was the promised resurrection that Jesus had already demonstrated by raising Lazarus from the dead. Failure by the soldiers would have meant automatic death. They knew that Jesus had risen, but now the leaders invented the lie that while the soldiers slept the disciples came and stole the body of Jesus. That drummed up story is more fantastic than the resurrection itself. All denials and explanations by an unbelieving world about Christ's resurrection fall into that same category. The simplest truth is still that Jesus rose from the dead as he promised that he would.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very bedrock of the Christian faith. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, his death would have been nothing but another martyr's death. His resurrection verified all scripture that prophesied his deity and fulfilled all scriptures about him.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials 1 Peter 1:3-6.*

What loss, what illness and what pain are you suffering today? Jesus, who has the power over illness and death understands and sympathizes with your plight and help you in your needs just as he did with Mary and Martha. He did however not spare them from their brother's death. Prayer becomes a reality at Easter because Jesus is alive, he hears us when we come to him.

Jesus told Martha, *I am the resurrection and the life...whoever lives and believes in me will never die.* One of these days you will hear or read that Abe Funk is dead. Don't you believe that. I will be more alive than I have ever been before. Because of Christ's resurrection I will live forever as he promised.

Quote: *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said* –the Angel

Think About This:

Martha put the idea of resurrection into the future. Jesus put it into the present; *I am the resurrection.* How can you make the historical fact of Christ's resurrection a daily practical experience in your life?

A Prayer for You:

Thank you, Lord Jesus for coming to our sinful world, for dying on the cross to pay for our sins, and for coming alive to give us eternal life with you forever, and a meaningful life here and now. Amen

My Notes and what To Pray for:

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful Colossians 4:2

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