

Everyday we live in a fallen world that lives under a blanket of death. To overcome the effects of death we must be a people of faith who know how to be constantly...

“Touching Easter”

(Learning how to stay the flow of death by staying in the flow of resurrection life)

Scriptures:

John 11:14, 17-25, 32-44/ Mark 5:21-42

Introduction:

A. Jesus as Resurrection and Life.

- **John 11:25** - ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”
- The condition of His being is to rise things out of death into life.

B. Jesus walked and ministered in resurrection life.

- Power went out from the Lord to heal the sick.
- This power is actually a quality of LIFE. Life with authority.
- It was transferred by word or touch.
- Jesus’ healing ministry was giving our free samples of Easter! **Easter touch!**

C. Jesus was Easter going to the cross to face death once and for all.

- **John 10:17.** “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”
- **John 2:19** “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- **Heb 2:14-16** – He went to destroy the power of death for us.

D. **Mark 5:21-42.** Stopping the flow of death and raising to life.

- Two healings that complete one picture: A flow of death stopped and a dead girl raised to life.
- Jesus stopped the process and end result of death.
- Jesus wants to do both these in your life too.

E. Placing a faith-demand on Jesus: knowing the kind of Being Christ is.

- The woman with the issue of blood touched an Easter already in existence.
- She placed a faith-demand on Christ seeing Him to be the One to heal her.
- Many people crowded Jesus only one touched Him!
- Faith TOUCHES the supernatural. Many ‘touched’ a prophet; only one “touched” One who was Resurrection.

F. Do we have Faith in Easter Resurrection?

- Not just doctrinally. Not just as a tenant of faith.
- **Are we an Easter people? Do we live an Easter life?**
- Are we bringing His touch into our life situations?
- Eg. Moses’ staff = became the “*staff of God*” used to divide waters and perform miracles: Exod. 4:20. Christ’s resurrection is our “*staff of God*” to take into our life-mission!
- Are we taking our “*staff of resurrection*” with us?

G. Live in the seeking (*woman*) and receiving (*little girl*) of a continual supply of resurrection life!

- Like the woman we have to learn to touch resurrection life
- Like the little girl we need to receive those touches of God

This Easter... take resurrection beyond the story of the tomb and bring it into your daily life of faith.

HOW TO TOUCH EASTER.... EVERYDAY... AND BRING YOUR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES INTO RESURRECTION!

1. Believe God's Plan to bring you out of the realm of death – COMPLETELY!

John 5:24 (NIV) ²⁴*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over from death to life.**"*

A. God's Plan for you: cross over from death to life in all areas of your being and living.

B. Know God: He is against death in every form. (*This should be your attitude!*)

C. The Story of Noah: God will not Rest until He brings us out of death into a new state.

- "Noah" means "rest"

D. The Story of Lot: carried out by angels to escape death.

- Gen 19:16

E. What you are truly made of: LIFE (Rom 8:10)

- **Romans 8:10 (literal)** ¹⁰And if Christ *is* in you, your body *is* dead because of sin, but **your spirit is life** because of righteousness.
- **Your spirit is life!**
- 1 Cor 6:17

F. Jesus purpose in your life: LIFE! (*John 10:10*)

G. The woman with the issue of blood believed Jesus could stop her death-flow. Do you?

- Mark 5:27 - ²⁷*When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.* ²⁸*For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well"*

2. Know the Lord as the Lord of RESURRECTION LIFE

Revelation 1:18 (NIV) ¹⁸*I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

John 11:25 (NIV) ²⁵*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;*

A. The church is overly indoctrinated; we need to become overly "LIFE-inated"!

- We know Jesus as our Teacher but do we take Him as our Victory?!
- The church needs the experience of resurrection victories, not just good doctrine.

B. The Quality of the Lord's Being and Person is Resurrection Life. He brings to life out of death.

C. Christians should be "death-removers", "death-busters"!

D. "Go... raise the dead...!"

- *Matt 10:*
- ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: *"⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, **raise the dead**..."*

E. BELIEVE to overcome death in your life... everything from headaches to hangnails!

- Stand against 'death' in every form in your spirit, soul, body and circumstances!
- Depression, discouragement, weakness, sickness, doubt, hopelessness, fear, worry, bitterness, etc. They are all the offspring of death!
- Rom 5:12, 14, 17- Jesus came to destroy death's rule

3. Trust in the nature of resurrection life within you.

Romans 8:11 (NIV) *¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

A. The very Spirit and power of Resurrection is in you because Christ's Spirit is in you!

- Easter is not just in the tomb 2000 years ago! It is in you right now in 2009! THE SAME SPIRIT!!

B. Eph 1:19-21. Know the exceeding greatness of this resurrection power to overcome in you.

C. The Spirit of resurrection gives LIFE and conquers death.

D. Just turn your "death-situations" over to the Spirit within you.

4. Press in and touch Christ by Faith.

Mark 5:28-29

²⁸For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ²⁹Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

A. Overcoming death in our life requires us to take on a battle mentality for victory.

B. The woman with the issue of blood had to PRESS into her victory.

C. His job is the Victory; our job is to just touch Him in faith.

D. The steps this woman took to write her own ticket to freedom:

1. She **Focused on Jesus** not her problem.

2. She **spoke faith** to herself, not fear.
3. She **acted** on her faith.
4. She **pressed through** the crowd of obstacles to touch Jesus.
5. She **received** His resurrection life
6. She **testified** giving God the glory.

5. Seven touches of Easter God wants to give you.

Matt 9:12-13 (NKJV) *"When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a **physician**, but those who are sick.*

A. In Matthew 9 we see Jesus calling Himself our Physician (latros).

- Easter was His master "open heart surgery" for the world!
- All His healings were foretastes of resurrection life flowing from Him.

B. Jesus has ONE MEDICINE for all our ills:
RESURRECTION LIFE!

- His life is like miracle medicine! It cures all the ill effects of death from sin.
- **In Matthew 9 we find 7 touches of Christ's resurrection power as our Great Physician:**

1. Healing paralytic.
2. Forgiving sins.
3. Healing woman with issue of blood.
4. Raising dead girl to life.
5. Healing two blind men.
6. Healing the demoniac.
7. Various sicknesses and diseases.

6. Stop looking for the living among the dead. (Get your head out of the grave!)

Luke 24:1 - 6 (NIV) ¹*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "**Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen!***

A. The believers were looking in the grave for Jesus. **"He is NOT here; He is risen!"**

- Are you one of them?
- Easter should forever change our focus: from the grave to the skies!

B. Stop preparing spices for your tombs! Prepare to encounter resurrection life!

- What is the point in making death pretty? Stop putting bandages on death! Get raised up out of the condition!

C. The only way to get your head out of the grave is to believe in Easter Life!

7. May we live as Easter People!

Rom 6:5 (NKJV) ⁵*For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

- A. We are destined with Him to share fully in His resurrection. (Rom 6:5)
- B. We should desire to know Him in His resurrection status (Phil 3:10)
 - ¹⁰*that I may **know Him and the power of His resurrection**, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,*
- C. The ONE thing nothing but the church can conquer: Death. It should be our calling card as an Easter people!
- D. May we learn to continually “touch the hem of His garment” and let resurrection life flow into us.

Conclusion

- **John 11:25** - ²⁵*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*