

A REVIVED COMMUNITY
MATT. 27:50-53

4-9-2023

Matthew 27:50 Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit.:51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,:52 and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead.:53 They left the cemetery after Jesus 'resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MY SON, ALEXANDER, I STARTED AN ORGANIZATION CALLED REVIVE COMMUNITY. IT WAS MY VISION TO MAKE THE WORDS WE OFTEN QUOTE FROM *Proverbs 13:22 Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.:23 A poor person's farm may produce much food, but injustice sweeps it all away.*, A REALITY

THE WEALTH OF THE WICKED IS LAID UP FOR THE JUST.

TO TAKE CORPORATE WEALTH THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR COMMUNITIES AND PUT IT BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OF FINANCIAL TRAINING, FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY, IMPROVING HEALTH EDUCATION AND BUSINESS INCUBATION. WHY? BECAUSE I BELIEVED THAT RESURRECTION WAS NOT JUST THE HISTORICAL EVENT THAT BIRTHED OUR FAITH BUT THAT IT WAS THE EPIC EVENT THAT DECLARED TO THE DEVIL, "ANYTHING YOU KILL I CAN GIVE LIFE BACK TO IT!" I AM THE "RE" GOD. I RESTORE. I REVIVE. I RENEW. I RECONFIGURE. I REBIRTH. I RESURRECT.

THIS BELOVED COMMUNITY IS NOT A BLACK COMMUNITY IT'S A BROKEN COMMUNITY. BROKENNESS COMES IN ALL COLORS...OUR BLACKNESS OFTEN BLINDS US TO THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OUR POWER.

MLK WAS NOT A THREAT TO AMERICA AND THE WORLD BECAUSE HE BROUGHT BLACK PEOPLE TOGETHER. MANY HAD ACCOMPLISHED THAT AND WERE NOT SLAIN BY THOSE IN POWER. KING WAS A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER WHO PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS WERE BEGINNING TO LOOK TO. IN HIS OWN WORDS...

MALCOLM X WOULD LATER IN LIFE COME TO A SIMILAR FATE WHEN SLAIN BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE JEALOUS BLACK MUSLIMS BUT MOST OF US DOUBT THAT ISLAM KILLED ITS OWN. MALCOLM BECAME A PROBLEM AFTER HIS PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA "In fact, what I have seen and experienced on this pilgrimage has forced me to 'rearrange' much of my own thought-pattern, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions."

THE POWER OF RESURRECTION IS A POWER AIMED AT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED. THE CHURCH HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GOD WHO SAVED US TO LOOK OUT FOR THE HURTING, THE MARGINALIZED AND THE FORGOTTEN. THE RESURRECTION OF OUR CHURCH OR OUR PEOPLE WILL NOT FIND COMPLETENESS UNTIL WE TAKE OUR RESURRECTION MESSAGE TO THE NATIONS.

DEUTERONOMY 24.17,18

17"True justice must be given to foreigners living among you and to orphans, and you must never accept a widow's garment as security for her debt. 18Always remember that you were slaves in Egypt

and that the LORD your God redeemed you from your slavery. That is why I have given you this command.

TODAY I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD ALONE BUT HE BROUGHT A COMMUNITY OF DEAD FOLK BACK TO JERUSALEM WITH HIM!

1. ISRAELITES DELIVERED AS A COMMUNITY

Exodus 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Exodus 19:5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.

Exodus 19:6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation. 'This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.'

GOD BROUGHT THEM OUT AS ONE

GOD DIVERSIFIED THEIR NATION

Joshua 6:25 So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day.

GOD CALLED THEM TO LIVE FREE IN COMMUNITY NOT ISOLATION

Deuteronomy 24:17 "True justice must be given to foreigners living among you and to orphans, and you must never accept a widow's garment as security for her debt.

Deuteronomy 24:18 Always remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the lord your God redeemed you from your slavery. That is why I have given you this command.

2. THE ARMIES THAT PERISHED WERE RESURRECTED TOGETHER

Ezekiel 37:9 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, "This is what the Sovereign lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again."

Ezekiel 37:10 So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

VALLEY OF DRY BONES WAS AN ARMY THAT HAD PERISHED

THEIR RESTORATION SPEAKS TO OUR INTERDEPENDENCE. "Bones came together"

GOD SENT HIS INSPIRING "WIND" TO RESTORE THEM ALL.

3. JESUS GOT UP IN COMMUNITY!

IT'S SO MUCH LIKE JESUS TO NOT BE RESURRECTED ALONE. HE NEVER TRIES TO BE THE HERO OR THE ONE-MAN SHOW. HE DOESNT FEED TWO PEOPLE HE FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND. HE DOESN'T FEED THEM HIMSELF HE USES THE WHOLE TEAM. SO, HE DOESN'T GET UP ALONE HE BRINGS OTHERS WITH HIM.

THEIR GRAVES OPENED WHEN HE DIED!

There is always a dramatic removal of the stone. Lazarus' stone was moved first. God will start to move things before you actually get up.

THEY WENT BACK INTO JERUSALEM AFTER HE GOT UP!

He becomes a pattern for us to follow. He is the FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY!

Romans 8:29