

The RESURRECTION of JESUS In REAL LIFE TERMS

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GREETINGS: It is a blessing for me to come to you! I am so excited about today's message! I'm going to preach about the resurrection of Jesus Christ in its setting where it was in the early Church times. What went through the mind of Mary of Magdalene? What was Salome thinking about this? What was Mary, the mother of James, thinking? What was going on in the mind of the early Church people, or I would say the first disciples, when they saw that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead? I'm going to be hitting on Mark 16, Acts chapters 1, 2 and 3. These are powerful things that we are going to talk about.

We are going to talk about how Peter addressed the Jews that he called the murderers of Jesus Christ which he also called people that did it ignorantly. We're going to look at how that got them out of the systems of that world. And then lastly, we are going to apply it to our lives explaining what that means to us today.

I want to welcome you and I want to thank you that you slotted in and you allow me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Father, I want to thank You for Your love and Your grace. I want to thank You for the Gospel, the very Good News, that makes us new. Thank You, Lord, that this brings a completely different way of looking at the world, looking at our own lives, at who we are and what our destiny is. It brings a redefinition of what win means, of what righteousness means, of what saved means.

Thank You for the love You have for us and that You have come to preserve our lives forever! You've come to save us! Thank You for the power of Your Spirit on us. I also want to thank You, Lord, and I want to ask that You stretch forth Your hand to perform signs and wonders and miracles in those people who listen to this message live. Thank You, Lord, that there might be those who started to hear the message and they feel that this is Good News, but I want You to come and I ask You, Lord, that You, as I preach, like in the Book of Acts, fill people with the Holy Spirit, heal their bodies, bring deliverance to them in ways where they can say, "The Word was confirmed with signs, wonders and miracles. And we believe that Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen"

MESSAGE: Today we are going to start out with **Mark16**. The purpose of today's message is to look at what was going on in the disciples of Jesus and the people who followed Him that were still left over and left in the amazement of the death of Jesus. Yes, I would say, amazement, because they were amazed that He died.

They never thought that He was now going to die. They thought that He was the Messiah. So, we are going to look at what was going on in their minds. Then we are going to see how we can apply that to everyday life and how that affects us today because we need to understand this thing. This is what I am going to draw on heavily on and that is that the same man, Jesus, that poured His Spirit out on people 2,000 years ago is continually doing that on the lives, on the bodies, of people who believe in Jesus today. So, He is still working in the earth today! What does that mean? It means that Jesus still pours out the Spirit on people today. It means that what was true then is still true now and I want to submit to you that I am of the opinion that the way they looked at Jesus is still the way we need to look at Jesus today. Glory to God!

I want to tell you that I just preached this message in Afrikaans and to our local congregation here on a zoom meeting and I am so pumped with this truth! I want to just share this with you!

Let us get into **Mark 16**. You know, so many times we have this idea that the Gospel is basically a theory that just changes our mind so that we can just look at things differently. But it is much more than that! It's much more powerful than that.

I want to use this example before I get into Mark 16. I have a cup here that I drank coffee out of earlier today. It is dirty. I also have another cup here that was from the previous day. It is also dirty. Helena always complains telling me that I should bring the cups in that we can have it washed. But I just forget the cup sometimes.

When you look at this cup, it is dirty and obviously, when a person dishes, you want it clean. Imagine I do the following: I have some Sunlight dish washing liquid. They say that it has a certain percentage of lemon in it. I tell you that people advertise this as if it can 'almost wash your soul'. That's how good they say it is.

Now, if I want to wash these cups, what must I do? I take the soap and then I need to apply it to the cup, mix it with some water, wash it, rinse it, and then it will be clean. But imagine that I go and I just look at the cup through the container of soap. It does change... it kind of becomes a kind of a green like the soap, and a bit blurry because I am looking at these cups through the soap. Now, it does certain things in my mind. It does something with the light that comes into my eye and I look at it in a certain way. But, one thing it doesn't do, one thing for sure it doesn't do, is it doesn't wash the cup. It is just a way of looking at things and I want to submit to you that I think that we have had a view of Christianity where it, basically, got God not to look at sin anymore because He is looking at people through the blood of Jesus.

And then, what we think God thinks about sinners is now the lens through which we look at things where I think there was something much more physical and real that happened to Jesus and what happens in this world when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

It has much more to do with an application of a resurrected human and what happens to people through this man, Jesus Christ, and then what we would have is a theory where we, through the blood, look at the cups as clean and then we go to bed with peace of mind because we don't have to wash the dishes anymore. I mean, if our son washes the dishes and when I get there and it's not clean and he tells me, "Dad, just look through that soap. It's all clean!" I would say, "Son, we need to have a talk. I think you are playing games with your Dad and this is not the way it is supposed to be." And I would think that it was a joke. I would look for a camera, a candid camera, somewhere because this must be a joke that he is playing a trick on me.

So, what we want to do is we want to look at the Resurrection of Jesus, not as something we look through but as something that changed the world! That is what we need to look at and leaves us with a hope in the future. It's not something we look through. It's something that has happened to the world and in this world and we want to see how the early Church looks at this.

I preached on this passage many times and we are just going to focus even deeper on to this. **Mark 16:**

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Now I read up on that. Some people say that there were certain rituals about that with different meanings. One I read up on was that it would be very strong spices trying to get the stench of death, the stench of decay, away from the body of Jesus. What I see here is the beauty of how Mark puts it. Yes, Mark just puts facts there but I also read between the lines. That is only man's effort to try and soften the death of Jesus.

We need to understand that the death Jesus died, to these people, in that time, was absolutely devastating! You couldn't imagine what it must have meant to them! Back in those days, the Jews were waiting for the Messiah. I've said this before but let me hammer it again: The Jews waited for a Messiah. What that would mean is deliverance from Rome. What they wanted is something like what happened in the Maccabean revolt where there was a revolt against the Hellenistic rule that they were over in about 167 before Christ. Then there was a revolt and they overthrew the power of the Hellenistic rule that there was over them. Then, what we would call was Israel was then independent.

I mean, in South Africa, in America, different countries, we celebrate independence. We are a country on our own, ruled by ourselves. That's what happened to the Jews and the kingdom was now restored to them. They were a kingdom again. They were ruling again over themselves. They could stand under God... the whole thing. They were free.

But then, in about 63BC, Rome came in and conquered Jerusalem, conquered the Jews, and they became a colony again of this Roman Empire, which was a problem to the Jews. So, they were now looking for somebody like in the Maccabean revolt, like the

man who led them free. I think it was called the Hammer, coming and setting the Jews free again.

They were waiting for this Messiah. Different people came and presented themselves as a Messiah. What they would basically do is they would get followers. These followers would then stand up or they would try and plan a revolt or even a political party that would kind of work with Rome but try to overthrow Rome at the end of the day but in a legal way. There were different approaches. You got the Herodians who were thinking that Herod was the king of the Jews and since he was the king of the Jews, that's what they thought, You know, if he could get higher political power, he would. I mean, that is how the kingdom might be restored and all those kinds of things.

Then there would be somebody like Jesus who came. I mean there were many like messiahs in that time that tried and show that they are a messiah. But when Rome would find out about these messiahs, they would then kill him... which is a problem for your messiah. If you had a messiah and Rome took him and killed him, then you had to look for another messiah because that was definitely not the one because if he was the messiah, he would have set Israel free and Israel is not free so, okay, he wasn't a messiah. What they understood under Messiah is not what we, as the Christian Church, today understands as the Messiah as the one that saves us from hell and going to take our spirits to heaven. That is not what they understood under Messiah.

They saw, 100% political figure, somebody that could even take up arms, have a sword, fight for independence by sword, and set them free like in the Maccabean revolt. That is exactly what they were thinking of. So, here comes Jesus. He is seen, by Peter, as the Son of God. Mark 16 records that flesh and blood has not revealed that. Jesus even said that. He said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter said, "He's the Messiah." Jesus basically said that you are right.

Here are the followers of Jesus, very excited, because what they had in mind is that Jesus is going to set Israel free and they were very, very happy about that. And most probably, arms are going to be taken up. It might not be that it will be but it might be and here he is leading the people. Thousands follow Him. We see that He bears signs, wonders and miracles. God confirms that He is the man. They are all very excited!

All of a sudden, the Jews turned their backs on Him. They actually never believed in Him. They pushed Him away and organized, by the hands of wicked men, the Romans, who have this man crucified and there He dies.

Now imagine Jesus is now dead. Here Mary and Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, the people, the disciples, are all wondering, "Where have we missed it! We've missed it! Look at all the prophetic words. Look at all these things. It is not becoming true. We've missed it! Oh, God, what is going on? We were so convinced and it didn't happen."

And on the third day, when they went to put spices on His body, they find that the stone is rolled away and He is BODILY raised from the dead! My goodness! An angel appears

and says, "This man that you are looking for is not here. He was not stolen. He was none of those things. He is bodily raised!" What would that mean? Yes! He IS the One! Yes, He is going to set us free! Yes, He is the Messiah of the Jews! This must now be the time when He is going to restore the kingdom back to Israel!" And their political mind was rushing forth and they were so happy!

Now, the women went and they told the eleven and the eleven did not believe them. They did not believe! Jesus appeared to other people on the way to Emmaus. They went and told the disciples and the disciples did not even believe them. Then Jesus appeared to the eleven and He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they did not believe that those who saw Him raised from the dead were speaking the truth. And He said "Go now and tell the whole world, even unto the ends of the earth, tell them that I have been **bodily** raised from the dead." What He is basically saying is, "That which is Good News to you, go and declare it to others." And I want to add this in my own words, "And as this is Good News to you and what it means to you that it might mean something to them." My goodness!

We can then also go to **Acts 1:6**. This is a very important part here. After Jesus, after His bodily resurrection, which must have meant everything to them because it means that He IS the Messiah! There is no way that He is not the Messiah. That they think He was the Messiah that's going to take their spirits to heaven or what was their mindset of Jesus being the Messiah. Their mindset was that He is now restoring the kingdom to Israel and they wanted to now know when this is going to take place. Jesus appears. He talks about the kingdom, loving one another, caring for another and so forth.

Then He also talks about the Holy Spirit that will be poured out on them, and all those kinds of things. Then one day, when they were in a room together, they thought, "Let us just ask Jesus if this is going to happen now, this week, next week." "When are You going to restore the kingdom back to Israel?" What they wanted to know is, "Lord, when is it over with Caesar? When are you, basically, moving over in the Herodians? What are You going to do? Is this the time? Are we going to be free?"

Then Jesus answered them in a certain way. I pick it up here in **Acts 1:**

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt you at this time (now) restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know (And I'm using my own words from **Daniel 2:21**: It's not for you to know when I put someone in power, when I take someone out of power. But you shall be filled with the Holy Spirit) **the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

He is saying, "Get your mind off of who are the physical leaders of this piece of land. It's not for you to know when Caesar will be placed and when the next Caesar will come

and when he will be moved out. That's not for you to know. What you will have is, I will pour out My Spirit on you and you will be witnesses that I will be bodily raised."

We find that in Chapter 3. Paul comes and says that God made this Jesus both Messiah and Lord.

They were basically saying, "We witness that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is now the Lord. So, you are not going to worry anymore on who is Lord. (Lord would mean, lord Caesar.) You will not worry about who is governing the things of this world anymore because Jesus would be the one.) That's what they would know. That's what the early church believed.

Let me explain to you how this works. I am going to use politics to explain. I think I've used it before, but just forgive me but, let me use this example. I'm sure it might open your mind to see the power of what was going on in the early Church.

Imagine we take America now and the political situation that they are in. I don't want to get involved in what is happening there politically. Some might be very upset but I don't really care because Jesus is Lord to me. You understand why I say that. I don't really care. Jesus is Lord! To mean it doesn't matter times and seasons. It's not for me to know if the next party will be Republicans or Democrats. It's not for me to even know that! It's for me to have the Holy Spirit and testify that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that He is Lord! He's the Ruler! That's what it is for me. He was raised from the dead. It's not for me to know those things. Those are little things. It is not even of importance for me. There are some people that will know that, but for me I'll receive the Holy Spirit and I will be a witness to the fact that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and that He is Lord. Whosoever calls on His name, be they of Caesar's house, be they of the Herodians, it doesn't matter... they shall be saved because He is Lord of this earth and still working in this earth and He will continue to work in this earth and He will make everything now in this earth.

Let me explain that to you. Let's say we take the Democrats and the Republicans and now we look at the accusations that are going around and they are saying that the election was rigged. There was some cheating taking place.

For just an example, let's say that it is true. But now it's even rigged and the reason why I say that is true is because I want to explain what happened to Jesus and the Jews and how they set Him up. That's the message I am really talking about. Please hear what I am saying. So, let's say that it is true. But, let's say it is so rigged that Trump is even now found that he is guilty of some very big thing and he must get the death penalty. Now he gets the death penalty. So, he was guilty. Lies were fabricated and he received the death penalty. Imagine that happened to Donald Trump today in America. Now he's dead. Pictures have shown the man is dead. It's on the news. The man has died by lethal injection. The man is dead. Three days later, he is raised from the dead and he starts to appear to people. All other parties, all news agents, everybody has something to deal with now. Because this man has been raised from the dead. The people in

America would start to worship him as God! Why? Because he was raised from the dead. He would be seen as the one that will rule America forever.

It would not be a four-year term, an 8 year-term... none of that would be whereby those who believe and have seen him raised from the dead would govern their lives. They would not care about terms anymore. They would say, "Trump has been raised. He's a man approved of God and we stand under him for as long as he lives and that is forever more."

And imagine if he now starts to promise eternal life to those who believe upon him! Now some might say that this is a terrible example depending on what side of the political scheme you are. I don't really care for the American politics. What I care for is Jesus! And the point that I am making is that Mary and Salome and Mary, the mother of James, and the disciples and what happened to them would be what happened to a very strong republican that completely feels that Trump is the right person if Trump would have died and really be raised from the dead. You would not find him anymore even at the polls ever again. You would find this man consumed with what has taken place and his life will be born from that.

Now, that is what took place in Jesus. He was bodily raised from the dead. The disciples saw Him, touched Him. Then from there, this man, Jesus, who appeared for a period of about 40 days and talked and interacted with the disciples, was taken into the heavens in front of their own eyes. He didn't disappear as pertaining to be away from the world but only went into a dimension where we cannot see Him but He is still with us... that man, 9 days later when the Holy Spirit was poured out on people was preached as the man that is actively still working in the earth and that it was He that poured out the Spirit on the people.

So here were they basically saying, "We don't care about the Herodians. We don't care about any of these things. God has taken the man, and this is now where we get to Acts chapter 2, where Peter is preaching. Let me first say what he preached and then I'll read it. He says to them, "This man, whom you murdered, whom you crucified, God approved of Him through signs and wonders and miracles and then He was murdered by you, given over to the Romans! You, working together with these Gentiles, killed this man. All authority of Rome was pushed down on Him. All authority, of you people, came on this man and you killed him! What God did was showed, through signs and wonders, before the time, that this IS the Messiah! When you killed the Messiah, what did the Father do? The Father said, 'Then I'll raise Him up! But He is the Messiah. He is the Ruler!'"

Now, was their concept that this Messiah, prior to His death, was going to be a Ruler that works in the earth? Absolutely! And then when He died, what did God do? He raised Him from the dead. Then in **Acts chapter 2**, the Holy Spirit was poured out! Then he says, "This, what you are seeing now, is the very one that you murdered who the Father raised up. It is Him, physically, pouring out the Spirit on physical people and they are now, in all languages, declaring that Jesus is the Lord, that He is the Messiah." Lord and Messiah would mean to the Greeks and the Romans, the head of everything

was lord Caesar. And to the Jews, the head of everything would be the Messiah. He says that He made Him Lord and Messiah... not of heaven... of earth!! My goodness! Oh, hallelujah!

You would not be able to convince any of those church people to throw their weight in with the Herodians or to throw their weight in with Caesar or with any little rebel group that is now going to fight against Rome or anything. They would say, "We don't need a rebel group any more. We don't need any of those things anymore! We don't need a Maccabean revolt again. We need none of that. The one we have, he has even conquered Rome. He has conquered death. He has told us not to give any attention to those things but we will have the Holy Spirit and we will testify that the man is Lord... that He was raised from the dead! Glory to God!

Let's listen to what he says. **Acts 2:**

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher (grave) is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet (David prophesied), and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh (physical man), he would raise up (the Messiah) the Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus has God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he has shed forth this, which you now see and hear. Talking about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit...

So, what is Peter saying? He is saying, "Listen, this Jesus, this physical Jesus, was physically raised. He's a physical man. He ascended to the right hand of God. The heavens had taken Him. But His hand is not too short to rule on this earth and it is Him pouring out the Spirit on these people now. It's Him doing it. He's physically working in the earth. So, He went and sat down at the right hand of the Father. The Father promised Him the Holy Spirit. As He sat down at the right hand of the Father, the Father gave Him the Holy Spirit and He, now, pours out the Spirit, whereby He will rule in this world, on those who believe in Him.

Do you think they, the early Church, would be bothered about Caesar and the Herodians and what was going on there? To them they needed nothing... politically, physically, everything! The Resurrected Christ was it all! That's what happened to Him. They believed on Him. They were standing under His rule in this earth. And the way Jesus rules was that He put the Spirit inside people's hearts. He poured His life out on their flesh. He condemned sin in their flesh and healed them from corruption and sin in

the flesh. He brought life, love, peace and joy out in them and that is how He governs in the world and there is no other way! That is the only way! That is why they just preached the kingdom of God. They preached the Resurrected Jesus and they didn't care about the rest!

They preached the Gospel because their Jesus Lord. Why would they now worry about another guy who calls himself, "lord Caesar". They wouldn't even worry. Why would they worry about King Herod and the Herodian political party of that time? They wouldn't care because Jesus was their Lord and He ruled over them by the Holy Spirit! And that rulership would be called the Grace of God and as people call upon the name of Jesus, they are saved from whatever they needed salvation from.

Another example... this is the paralyzed man that was healed.

Acts 3:11 *"And a lame man which was healed by Peter and John, and all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, (and they were all) greatly wondering (what was going on).*

12 *And when Peter saw it, he answered the people: You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? (It is talking about a physical thing that happened in the physical earth.) or why do you look so earnestly to us, as if we, by our own power or holiness we had made this man walk?*

13 *The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom you delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.*

14 *But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*

15 *And killed the Prince of life (In other words, the one that is now resurrected, when He was on the earth, He is the One that is now giving life to all people. When He was on the earth walking here with you, you killed Him! Can you see how physical, how political, how "in your face" is this preached? It says, "You killed Him!", **whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.***

16 *And his name (In other words, His authority in this physical earth) **through faith in his name** (In other words, the fact that He is the Lord, through trust in that He is the Lord), **hath made this man strong, whom you see and know: yes, the faith** (The persuasion that we can now have that He is Lord and that He promises us eternal life through the Prince of Life has made Him perfect and I present Him to you.) **which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.***

Those people's minds, in that time, were at a completely different place than what I find most of the people that call themselves the body of Christ today, have their minds. Their minds were on a physical Jesus, physically raised from the earth, who's physically working in this earth, who is the Lord, whose rulership is not of this world but that He is in this world and ruling making all things new, having the hope of the resurrection. The Spirit that will raise them from the dead is ruling in them proving that Jesus is Lord.

That's what they believed. Now we can understand what Paul would have meant when he said to Timothy, "A soldier of the Lord doesn't entangle himself with the affairs of this world." And I think we have done that in a great deal when it comes to this world and the things of this world and the news and the politics and all those kinds of things.

I love it! You sit around a table with people and when they want to talk about politics I just slam, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" He is Lord of this physical earth and I preach this kingdom and I say, "I am standing under His rulership and I am well! I am safe! I am protected!"

"But, Bertie, you cannot just keep your head in the sand, put your head in a hole, and not pretend as if you are not seeing!" No! I put my head in the hole called the grave of Jesus and I see no human being in that grave! To me, I see an angel saying that this man who you thought would rule, is not dead! He was raised!" And then I see Him appearing to me. I see the whole story and I am well aware that this physical Jesus has not left us as orphans but He's poured out His Spirit that reminds us of everything that He has freely given us! And the earth, and the fullness of it, belongs to the Lord and He rules over us! He brings life to us! He brings peace to us and our hope is in Jesus and Jesus alone! Glory to God!

You ask me, "How can you live in a country and just have peace there where you live in South Africa? They say, "It is finished!" Let me tell you something. The way I have peace right now is by knowing Jesus is Lord!" "But, Bertie, what if this party or that party is elected? What about them?" It's not for me to know those things. But it is for me to be a witness that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. I believe, and I've preached this message radically to you that are watching me today. We need to get back to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and get our noses out of what we have no business with!

"But, Bertie, what are you saying to me?" I am saying to you that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and I am a witness of that!"

"But, Bertie, how are you a witness because have you seen Him being raised from the dead?" No, I have not seen Him physically raised from the dead but I am not like those disciples who need a rebuke from Jesus who could not believe that He was raised from the dead. I didn't see Him but, what I did have is I found that I was filled with the Holy Spirit! I found that, when I believed upon Jesus and called upon His name, He saved me! I feel a salvation that is taking place in me. He's changing me and I am testifying that the very same Jesus that walked the earth, that went into the heavens, whom the heavens must take up all the time, is still and will always be Lord of this world. I stand under His jurisdiction and He rules over my life and that I find love and peace and joy... things like contentment coming to me! Hallelujah! Glory to God! I'm preaching myself very happy. No, I'm very happy and that is why I preach!

Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. He's our Messiah! The man, Jesus, is seated at the right hand of the Father. If I look into the heavens, I see a man seated at

the right hand of God whose face is shining with the glory of God, who He is the King of this world!

“But Bertie, isn’t Satan the king of this world?” No, he is the king of the systems of the world. But the earth, and the fullness thereof, belong to Jesus! “All authority has been given to Him!” “

“But Bertie, you know there are some authorities here and there.” I don’t want to know about those authorities. There is one way that I relate to the authorities of this world. I submit to them in this sense: If they say, “Drive the speed”, I do it. If they say that you must have a license, I do it. I don’t look for trouble with those folks but they are not the authority that rules my life. They are just a part of the systems of this world but I stand under the power of the One who makes all things new! Jesus was raised from the dead and I testify of the resurrection of Jesus.

Do you know what we have made the resurrection of Jesus Christ out to be? We think that Jesus, where He is at the right hand of the Father, has a body that is not evenphysical, that pertains to the heavens and those kinds of things. Because we have distanced Him so far from the earth, we are now looking for other systems in this world whereby we need to govern. Then we try and think, “How can we get these people to follow the customs of Jesus? And we as Christians, can force systems so that they line up with the kingdom of God so that we can live.” You will destroy yourself in this way! Believe that Jesus Christ is Lord! Believe that He was physically raised from the dead. Believe that you have the promise of the resurrection of your physical body. Believe that His Spirit is on your flesh! That’s what it is all about and that He brings forth in you the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is the first clothing of eternal life which shall manifest in this earth. We don’t live on this earth for no reason! And I want to encourage my friends in the United States that think that the whole kingdom of God is now in the balance between two political parties. And all of a sudden, the kingdom of God must now fight to convince some Supreme judges. Hey! Jesus was raised from the dead! He IS Lord and don’t forget it!

I want to tell you that it doesn’t matter who rules! Jesus rules and not in them, not through them but in you who believe and call upon His name. The only way the rulership and the kingdom of God can come to people’s hearts or over a country is by the people believing in Jesus and receiving the Holy Spirit.... and no other way! There is no other way!

“So, Bertie, what shall we do? Why do you think we have the Holy Spirit?” We have the Holy Spirit to be witnesses that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead!

Think of your political leader which you think is the hero. Think that he gets raised from the dead. How would that influence you? Would you care about anything but that? You cannot try and empower the truth of the resurrection through a court. It is above the courts! It is in the hearts of humans, under the rulership of Christ, in those who call upon the name. The only way you can find the country to change, if you want the whole

country to change, is to not waste any second on any rubbish that doesn't have the power to bring forth eternal life. But to preach the Gospel, in the hope that those to whom the Father is already speaking in their hearts, that they would grab ahold of and believe it. And as they hear a message confirming what they are hearing in the heart and as many as are willing to be saved shall be saved. And we will find that, in one day, Jesus Christ appears again in this physical world. We see His physical body and we will appear with Him in glory and so we will rule and reign with Him over death itself and live forever with Him.

That is the Gospel of the Kingdom, my friend! That is what we, as Christians, are supposed to believe! Hallelujah!

"But, Bertie, you are blind!" Yes, I'm blind to those things but my eyes that have been blind to Christ has now see! Glory to God! "But, Bertie, you are blind to the problems of this world!"

The other day I spoke to a person and we were talking about politics. I said to him, "Let me ask you this: History has shown us that we have never had any government that did not have corruption... never! There's always some form of corruption somehow. If we get other people into government, into civil government of South Africa, that are not corrupt, how are we going to get the corruption out of the people's hearts? That is the issue. The issue is not who's leading the country. The issue is the heart of man! That's the issue.

How are we going to change this? Do you know what the Gospel offers? I said to the man, "As long as we keep the poor, poor, in teaching them how poor they are in making them promises every day, they will live from poverty. But why can we not preach the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ, boldly and powerfully from a political platform where the people see the Resurrected Jesus... not a Jesus in Heaven... Jesus is Lord... kind of... NO! With understanding, man! With understanding, with power... with signs following! Why can we not do that and let every poor person come to the conclusion that Paul came to that said, "If I only have clothes and food, thereby I am content and I need nothing more! I am full." That would mean that nobody can control the poor anymore through lies because they will already be full! They will be happy. They will be joyous and so much problems will be sorted out. We'll find the rich becoming generous. We'll find the poor becoming generous. We'll find a change of life through the Kingdom of God believing upon Jesus Christ! Jesus is Lord!

We hear too little of Jesus in messages. We need to hear more about Jesus. We need to hear more about immortality. We need to hear more about His body being raised from the dead. I want to say to my preacher friends: Stop being ashamed of the resurrection! Hammer the message, man! Preach it unashamedly that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and what it means today. You don't have to treat people softly ... thinking he might be offended if I talk about the Resurrection. He's going to find out anyway that Jesus was raised from the dead! He's going to find out anyway about this

bringing eternal life to physical bodies in the last days. He's going to find it out anyway so just give it to them now! Glory to God! Glory to God!

Thank You, Jesus, for what You have done! Thank You, Father, for raising Jesus from the dead! Thank You for the power of the Holy Spirit upon us and that we can have peace! Thank You that we can be governed by the force and the power of heaven, the Spirit of God, and that we can be **in** this world and not have our life **of** this world. But, in this world, we stand under Your jurisdiction and we are here, Lord, to be witnesses that Jesus was bodily raised! That's what we will be involved with and thank You, Lord.

Thank You, thank You, thank You, that You have not given it for us to know the times and the seasons and all these kings and presidents. Thank You that we don't have to carry that burden but it is for us to testify that You were raised from the dead! Thank You, Lord!

And Father, I want to ask You, will You please, stretch forth Your hand to signs, wonders and miracles that I and those like me can preach the Gospel with boldness. Where we will have these overwhelming supernatural miracles take place, showing Your work in this world. Thank You, Lord, that You heal people that hear this message that they will testify of Your healing power. Thank You, Lord, that we know Your healing power, signs and wonders and miracles, is not the end of the kingdom. It's just a sign that You were raised and that You are Lord when You confirm Your word of eternal life. Thank You, Father. I thank You that You do that and we are open for that. Thank You, Father, in Jesus' mighty name....

Lord, I just stretch forth my hand, just as a sign and I thank You, Lord, that You stretch forth Your hand and in the name of Jesus Christ, sick people get healed, cancers get healed, people with HIV/AIDS get healed and people with addictions get set free. Thank You, Lord, that You do miracles for people in every area of their life: Financially, peace, their children get healed, miracles take place as signs of Your message. But, above all, Lord, that they would believe upon Your name and call upon Your name, to be saved. Thank You, Lord, that people's minds that are troubled with politics, Lord, thank You, that bondage is broken from them that they are free. They believe in Jesus.

Thank You, Lord, that Your Church is being set free! Thank You, Lord, that you raise up preachers who boldly preach this message. And I can say, "I thank You for that because I know You are busy with it and that people have boldness to preach! Amen and amen

I thank God for the Gospel! I understand what Paul says that if I am outside of my own mind, I get "beyond myself", it is because of God. If I am normal, inside parameters where I try to maybe explain something is because I want to explain it to people.

Now, I want to tell you that if I stand outside of South African, people will say, "Bertie, you are besides these systems of the world." Yes, it is because of God. That is what this is all about.

Be encouraged Church! It's all about Jesus! It's all about what He has done for us. It is all about the freedom that He has come to give us. Know that you are deeply loved by God, cared for by God!

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