

Simple statements can change your life. You mark your life by them, never forget them. After you hear things, things are never the same. The first time to hear, “I love you” or “Will you marry me?” And “Yes.” Or, “Honey, we’re having a baby.” Or “We have a new home” Things will never be the same. “I have a new job.” Perhaps even to say “I found a church called Risen Savior” ...Or the phone call, “Grandma is gone” or “Your dad has died” perhaps “There's been an accident.” When the doctor says, “I’m concerned about this” or I'm sorry, it's cancer.” Or “There’s nothing we can do.” Your whole life changed; you can still hear the words. Some for joy, good, others for worse, a nightmare, but always things are different, never the same again, your lives re-oriented, you’ve different cares, different thoughts. The things that troubled you one day are gone (they seem so petty now). Then you’ve a new outlook, new schedule, new priorities. Of all the things you’ve heard, there’s no more world-changing; your life-changing than:

The Lord is risen.

The women, disciples struggle that day, in spite of what they’ve been taught and heard, they still fear, despair. No unlike us.

Remember how He told you, the angel said. Simple statements, change your life. **The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be killed, after three days he will rise.** Yet they look for Him in a grave! Still trembled with astonishment. **And they remembered His words**, St. Luke writes.

We’re so like the women on the way to the tomb; we live by sight, not by His Words. Repent. For behold, **Remember how He told you.** simple statement, a new reality. How can we despair, be fearful, lose sight of His promises; what we’ve been taught and heard? How pitiful when we live in fear of the future or illness or death -our Lord lives.

Yet we’re so like the disciples. They’re hiding in fear of Pilate, the guards, the mob, what Caiaphas would do to them. We see: a culture, government, media becoming ever more hostile to Christian truth. We act naïve; also scared, depressed, how people might treat us or think of us. Why do we fear what man can do? How often we find our security in ourselves, what we can do, safety with money, things of the world. Martin Luther, under penalty of death, wrote a simple statement from Psalm 118 on the wall of His study, **I will not die but live and recount the works of the Lord.** (Children I said you can take out a marker and write Scripture on your wall at home.)

The Lord is risen. Simple statement. Changes the world, your reality. But this is not a matter of faith. This is objective truth. Too many eyewitnesses to His life, death and resurrection. Historical fact, truth. In spite of what the world says, we all don’t have our own set of facts, your own truth. Sure people have opinions and choose their worldview, but there is objective, irrefutable truth. Today. Easter. Truth that does not ever change. His Word. **The Lord is risen. Remember how He told you.** A matter of faith, to believe, live by His words.

Simple statements that change your life. **I forgive you your sins.** Lose your failures, your wretchedness, your fears, your faithlessness in the glorious wounds of the resurrected Christ.

Simple statements. **Remember how He told you. I baptize you.** And **Do you not know, you were baptized into His death, just as Christ was raised, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

Simple statements that change your life. **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.** Trust His Word, His sacrament which give everlasting life. For here, the power of Jesus' resurrection is yours like no other place. A living, present reality that changes everything for you.

Why then dwell on hardship instead of every trouble a blessing to draw you closer to Him and see more of His love? Why do we put the value of our life by what we do; measure our life whether its good, bad, successful or complete by man's standards? What is the worse thing that can happen to you?

Simple statements that change your life. **Remember how He told you. I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.** Death has served your loved one in Christ their greatest joy, you're still celebrating the Easter feast with them right here, joining your song with them before His throne. It's happening. Don't you yearn for that reunion, to see them again, feel their touch, hear their voice, hug them again. You will. Historical, proven, objective truth. Easter. He lives.

Until then, as the world becomes more and more chaotic, amid the emptiness, false security, lies, evil and confusion of the world; your own share of frustration and hurt; in the face of our sin and death comes this glorious Easter gospel, Jesus the Christ, true man, true God, crucified, dead for your offenses, is raised for you -to be justified, given His peace, given His life.

Remember how He told you, your life will be difficult to follow Him, **the world will be against you, even hate you, but you are blessed. Remember how He told you, I am with you always.**

Simple statements change your life. You are holy, His beloved. This is the feast of victory, the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Everything that could truly harm you has been defeated. Sin and death undone. The tomb is empty. **Go home and marvel at what has happened.** You live in a new reality. Historical, objective truth of this day. His Word never changes or fails. **And they, you, remembered His Words.**

So lift up Your head. Sing and feast, sound the organ; blow the trumpet, strike the tympani, Your Lord lives. Der Chrsitus ist auferstanden. Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden. The Lord is risen...