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Christ's Words AFTER the Cross

Introduction

- Christmas story in Matthew & Luke only;
but Easter story in all the 4 Gospels.
 - Christmas Cards plenty;
Easter Cards rare!
- Christmas is a miracle; but Easter a greater miracle!
- No Christmas without Christ;
No Christianity without Resurrection!
- No miracle in Death; but in Resurrection!
- A man's life ends with a funeral,
but Christ's earthly life ended with a festival!
- We do not believe a Christ
who was alive and is dead,
but one who was dead and is alive!
- The empty tomb of Christ, and not the inn of
Bethlehem, has been the cradle of the Church!
- Christianity is essentially a Religion of Resurrection!
- So much preached on the 7 Words (Sayings) of Christ
FROM the Cross;
but very little on what He spoke **AFTER** the Cross.
- Each of His 7 Sayings after Resurrection
explains how Christian life is a TRIUMPHANT life.
eg) □ Christ's introduction of Himself while addressing
the Churches — Rev 1:17,18 ... *dead ... alive*
 - How He concludes — 3:21 ... *overcame*The march of victory! (2 Cor 2:14-16) ... *aroma of Christ*

What is Triumphant life?

1. It's a life of Divine Relationship.

Jn 20:17 ... *My Father ... your Father ...*
My God ... your God ...

Jesus came to teach us the FATHERHOOD of God —
eg) Sermon on the Mount —

"Your Father in Heaven!"

Mt 5:16	6:6	6:18
:45	:8	:26
:48	:9	:32
6:1	:14	7:11

- This is the Foundation for Christian life (Jn 1:12) —
The devil as a father vs. God as the Father (Jn 8:42,44)
- This is the difference between the OT & NT.
No one addressed God like this in the OT —
That's why, *"Teach us to pray"* (Lk 11:1,2)
Say, "God is my Father!" and "My Father is God!"

What a privilege!

How men hesitate to identify, but Jesus (Heb 2:11,12)

Not again to fear ... but "Abba, Father" (Rom 8:15,16)

2. It's a Life of Incomprehensible Peace.

The Resurrected Christ said, *"Peace!"*

Lk 24:36 ... Emmaus' disciples + 11

Jn 20:19 ... Mary Magdalene + 11

:26 ... Thomas + 10

- *"My" Peace* — Jn 14:27 ... **I leave My peace with you**
16:33 ... *In Me you may have peace.*
"good cheer!"

- (At birth) **“Prince”** of Peace (Isa 9:6)
- (By Resurrection & Ascension) **“King”** of Peace (Salem)
after the order of Melchizedek (Heb 7:2)
“By the power of an endless life” (vv15-17)

= Deep restfulness —
Anxieties ... pray ... peace of God that passes
all understanding ... *God of Peace ...* (Phil 4:6,7,9)

Calm in storm!

“In the world ... tribulation .. cheer ... I’ve overcome” (Jn 16:33)

- When peace is lost, everything is lost.
— True *“strength”* (Isa 30:15-18) (Heels & Horses)
- The greetings of NT writers —
“Grace & Peace”
Peace is the outcome/result/fruit of Grace!
So many **homes** without peace: *“Say, Peace!”* (Lk 10:5)

3. It’s a life of Unshakable Faith.

- What Jesus spoke to Thomas —
Jn 20:27-29 ... *not seeing yet believing*
Thomas = Didymus = twin

Double-mindedness is too common in all of us.

- Resurrection ... Foundation for faith (1 Cor 15:17)
- Simple faith is a profound experience —
“glorious” ... 1 Pet 1:8,9
- *The just shall live by faith!*
OT prediction by Prophet Habakkuk (Hab 2:4)
This is NT Christianity —
Rom 1:17/Gal 3:11/Heb 10:38

We **walk** by faith ... **not** by sight!

2 Cor 5:7

“What happens” — FEAR

“Who makes things happen” — FAITH

- This faith is *more precious than silver and gold!*
(1 Pet 1:7)
We take it for granted ...
but remember, not everyone has it!
- The very name of Christians is **“believers.”**
“A” to “Z” is of Faith —
Word of Faith (Rom 10:8)
Salvation by Faith (Eph 2:8)
Fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12)
Spirit of Faith (2 Cor 4:13)
That’s why, *Author & Finisher of Faith* (Heb 12:2).
Faith alone triumphs!
1 Jn 5:4,5 ... *faith overcomes the world.*
- Faith in Christ’s Resurrection gives us
the hope for our resurrections!

The hymn chosen by Mrs. Gladys Staines
at the funeral of her martyred husband
and two sons in 1999 —

Because He lives ... I can face tomorrow

4. It’s a life with the Holy Scriptures.

Lk 24:25-27 ... Disciples on Emmaus Road
:44 ... *Pentateuch, Prophets, Psalms*

- *God has magnified His Word above all His Name*
Psa 138:2b
- *“According to the Scriptures”*
Repeated so often during Passion week:

- eg) — *Behold, your King is coming* (Mt 21:4,5)
- *My House a House of Prayer* (Mt 21:13)
- *Out of the mouths of babes* (Mt 21:16)
- *The stone rejected* (Mt 21:42)
- *Crucified with thieves* (wicked) (Mk 15:27,28)
- *Dividing His garments* (Mt 27:35)
- *I thirst* (Jn 19:28)
- *No bone broken* (Jn 19:36)
- The very Gospel (1 Cor 15:1-4)
- “ALL” the Scriptures (Lk 24:27)
“All” Scripture profitable ...
 Do not be choosy ... (2 Tim 3:16,17)
- Our only offensive weapon in the spiritual warfare ...
Sword of the Spirit: Word of God (Eph 6:17)
“It is written” (Mt 4:1-10)
 — Memorize Bible verses.
 Only then the Holy Spirit can “remind” you—
 (Jn 14:26)

5. It’s a life of Bold Witnessing.

- Great Commission in all the 4 Gospels —
 Mt 28:18-20 ... *All authority ... Go ...*
 Mk 16:16-18 ... *Go ... signs ...*
 Lk 24:47-49 ... *Repentance... Remission... Nations...*
 Jn 20:21 ... *As the Father sent Me, so send I you*
 :22,23 ... *Breathed ... Holy Spirit ... Forgive*
- The last recorded saying of Jesus —
 Acts 1:8 ... *power ... witness ... earth*
- It’s the Resurrection that gave boldness to cowards
 like Peter & John (Acts 4:33)

- The world has many religions, but only one Gospel!
 It has many *avatars*, but only one Saviour!
 It’s all because of Resurrection!
 That’s why Paul said,
*“If Christ has not risen ... our **preaching** is **vain!**
 ... your faith is **vain** ... still in sin”* (1 Cor 15:14)
 The Gospel is incomplete without Resurrection
 (1 Cor 15:1-5)
- Governor Felix trembled when Paul spoke about
 Resurrection and Judgment (Acts 24:15,25)

6. It’s a life of Incomparable Love.

- Undiminishing love.
 Jn 21:15-17 ... *Do you love Me more than all these?*
- Love for God is the basis of all our service for Him —
“Feed ... Tend ... Lambs ... Sheep”
 Anything else cannot sustain us for long —
 Obedience to His Commandments/Commission is to be
 born out of love —
“If we love Him, we will obey!” (1 Jn 5:2,3)
 This is the difference between
slavery and **sonship!**
 We must learn to love Him **more than** anything else —
“Do you love Me more than all these”
 How?
 a) *We love Him because He first loved us* (1 Jn 4:19)
 When we study/understand/appreciate
 His love more and more,
 our love also grows proportionately.

- b) Our love must not be for *what* He does, but *who* He is!
Only then, nothing can separate us from that love!
(“good or bad”)
(Rom 8:35-39) ... “neither death nor life...”
*In all these ... more than **conquerors** ...*

7. It's a life of Cross-bearing.

Jn 21:18,19 ... *Things you don't like ...*
Death ... Follow Me ...

- Jesus carried the Cross and died;
we die and carry the Cross!
Daily Cross-bearing —
“If any man... take up the Cross daily ...” (Lk 9:22,23)
— A Crossless Christianity today
 - Don't sidetrack or be distracted by others or by anything—
“What about this man? ... What if ...” (Jn 21:22,23)
You follow Me ... *“TILL I COME!”*
 - Cross Today — Crown Tomorrow!
“... suffer with Him...reign with Him” (2 Tim 2:8-12a)
- eg) Disciples — *“My trials ... a Kingdom ... My table”*
(Lk 22:28-30)

Conclusion

What is Triumphant Life?

From Christ's Words after the Cross —

1. A life of Divine Relationship
2. A life of Incomprehensible Peace
3. A life of Unshakable Faith
4. A life with the Holy Scriptures
5. A life of Bold Witnessing
6. A life of Incomparable Love
7. A life of Cross-bearing