

**DO YOU HAVE**

*Life?*

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost' sermon notes

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+ Today I want to look at this question: **"Do You Have Life?"**

Notice the question isn't, "Are you alive?" **Being alive is not the same as having life.**

In 1984 Clara Peller became an instant American icon when she starred in the famous "Where's the beef?" commercial for Wendy's burgers.

In the original commercial she is with a couple of other ladies examining this hamburger. The hamburger has this large bun. But when they open it there's hardly any meat! Clara asks the question: "Where's the beef?" That statement became famous and started to get used by politicians, by musicians, by all kinds of people, who, when they felt that something was obviously missing, would ask the question, "Where's the beef?"

**We could ask that question about life: "Where's the beef?"**

Many find themselves sandwiched between birth and death, struggling to find meaning in life, struggling to find identity, struggling to find purpose...

Is life just about learning to talk, walk, go to school, get a job, make some money, buy a car, fix the car, get a house, have some kids, save enough to retire, retire, get old, wait someplace until you die, hope they say nice things about you after you die? **Where's the beef? Where is the LIFE?**

+ Today is one week after Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Today, in the days of the first Christians, Christianity would have been one week old.

All four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) give very careful accounts of the events surrounding the resurrection. They are like 4 news reporters that interview the people who have witnessed an event and write down what they discovered.

+ For 40 days Jesus appeared to more than 500 different people giving them extensive evidence that he had indeed risen. Men, women, people from different walks of life and in a variety of different ways. He talked with them. He walked with them. He ate with them and he even cooked them breakfast. Giving them very compelling evidence that he had risen from the dead!

- On the first day Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus.
- Then He met with Peter.
- Then, that same day, he met with two disciples waking on a road traveling from Jerusalem. He walked with them and explained why Christ had to die and suffer on the cross.
- That evening 10 of his key disciples were in an upper room, doors locked, and Jesus comes to them and says: **"Peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. John 20:19–20**
- They thought they were seeing a ghost (some sort of apparition). But Jesus said, **"Touch me and see. It's me! A ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as I have."** Because they were still struggling to believe, he asked them, **"Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it."** (Lk. 24:39–43)



- Now His disciple Thomas wasn't there when Jesus came so the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20:25
- A week later his disciples were in the house and Thomas was with them this time. Again, the doors were locked...

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:26–28 (NIV)

So, the question is "**WHY?**" Why did Jesus make such efforts to prove his resurrection to them?

Why spend 40 days showing himself in different occasions to over 500 people?

Why did Matthew, Mark, Luke and John go into so much detail?

Why did John write about Thomas touching his nail scarred hands and the mark of the spear in his side?

**I believe the answer lies in the very next paragraph that John wrote...**

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" **HE BELIEVES!**

Then John writes...

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30–31 (NIV)

**That's the whole purpose in his book!**

**That's why Jesus was so careful to prove to them he had risen from the dead!**

**That we may believe and by believing we may have LIFE!**

Jesus talked a lot about this word "LIFE"

Here are just three examples...

Jesus said, "Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to LIFE." John 5:24

**Jesus said that those who believe in him (Put their faith in him) have taken this giant step and crossed over from death to life.**

So, Jesus tells us that there are two kinds of people:

- Those who are DEAD (spiritually dead) and those who are have LIFE (Spiritually alive).
- Those who are alive but DEAD.
- Those who are alive and have LIFE .

Without Him we don't have life, with Him we have life!

**Most people think they have life when in fact, Jesus says they don't!**



- Many might object to this: “Wait a minute! My doctor says that I’m healthy; I go to the gym, I have hobbies, I’m doing my job, paying my bills, I enjoy life... I’m alive! I have life!”

But Jesus looks at them and says, “Without me YOU’RE DEAD!”

- So, according to Jesus, there are people driving cars who are dead, living in beautiful homes who are dead, happily married yet dead, running great businesses but dead, and they think that because their life is full or they make money, they must be alive.

- In fact, according to Jesus, you can be religious and be dead, go to church every Sunday and still be dead and think that because you are religious and go to church you must be alive...

Jesus said to the religious leaders of his time...

“You are like whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful outside, but inside are full of dead bones.”

Matthew 23:27

I lived for years in southern Spain and saw these whitewashed tombs. They would be glistening white but inside they are filled with someone that is dead. Jesus says, “I offer you LIFE!”

“The thief comes ONLY to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have LIFE, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

I’ve heard this passage quoted often without the “ONLY”... but the “ONLY” is important! There is this thief that can ONLY steal your joy, he can ONLY bring you down, he can ONLY deceive you into thinking that he can give you LIFE! And in the end, you will end up saying: “Where’s the beef?”

Illustration: A balloon with just air will ONLY go down.

A balloon with helium will go up!

They both are a balloon but what makes the difference is what’s inside!



Jesus said...

“I have come (I have come) that they may have LIFE,

He is the helium that give us LIFE!

“I have come that YOU may have LIFE, and that YOU may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

LIFE TO THE FULLEST! Living life BIG!

The life Jesus offers is more than just breathing! It’s more than having a passing existence. Jesus offers us abundant life! WOW!

Once Jesus was talking to Martha and He said to her...

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25–26 (NIV)

A few weeks ago, I was asked to a home to assist with an elderly gentleman in the sudden passing of his wife. As I talked to the man he told me his name was John. Looking around the room I saw evidence that they were people of faith. He told me they were Christians. I looked into his tear-filled eyes



and asked him if he knew that his name John was the fourth Gospel in the Bible. He smiled and said “yes”. I said, “John, in that book of John it says that Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die”**. I asked, “John, did your wife believe in Jesus?” He said, “Oh yes!” I said, “John, do you?” A big smile came across his face, **“Yes I do”**.

Jesus asked this question to Martha: **“Do you believe this?”**

✚ For us Christians, the Resurrection is the most important part of our faith. **Without the Resurrection all hope is gone.**

Many people think that Jesus was a nice man; a kind man; a great spiritual leader who preached about “love”. But He did not come trying to be a nice guy; a good man. He never said he was a good man... He said, “I am the resurrection and the life!”

“I am the way, the truth, and the life!”

“I have come to give you life. He who believes in me shall never die”

**But without the Resurrection Jesus becomes a phoney!**

**If the one who said “I am the life” never rose from the dead we are hopeless fools & he was an evil deceiver!**

**But, if indeed it is true, then that changes EVERYTHING!**

- Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!
- Because He lives, I can face life!
- Because He lives, I can face difficulties!
- Because He lives, I can face death!
- Because He lives, I have hope!
- Because He lives, I don’t have to be afraid!
- Because He lives, I have LIFE! Abundant life!
- Because He lives, I can cross from death to LIFE!
- I HAVE RESURRECTION LIFE!**
- I have JOY! I CELEBRATE! I gladly SERVE Jesus!  
I’m ALL IN! BECAUSE HE LIVES!

Do you have LIFE? His ABUNDANT LIFE!

Are you HIS? Are you ALL IN?

✚ Have you lost your LIFE?

